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Saipan Tribune

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'CNMI generates millions of dollars' worth of publicity from Korea media' PAGE 3

Students rate Marianas 'average' to 'very safe' for travel. PAGE 7

$1

'Kanoa stunt won't happen again'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE and JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTERS

The CNMI COVID-19 Task Force is finalizing its report on the incident involving a man who fled quarantine at Kanoa Resort last Oct. 17, with task force chair Warren Villagomez assuring in a radio news briefing last Friday that the incident won't happen again.

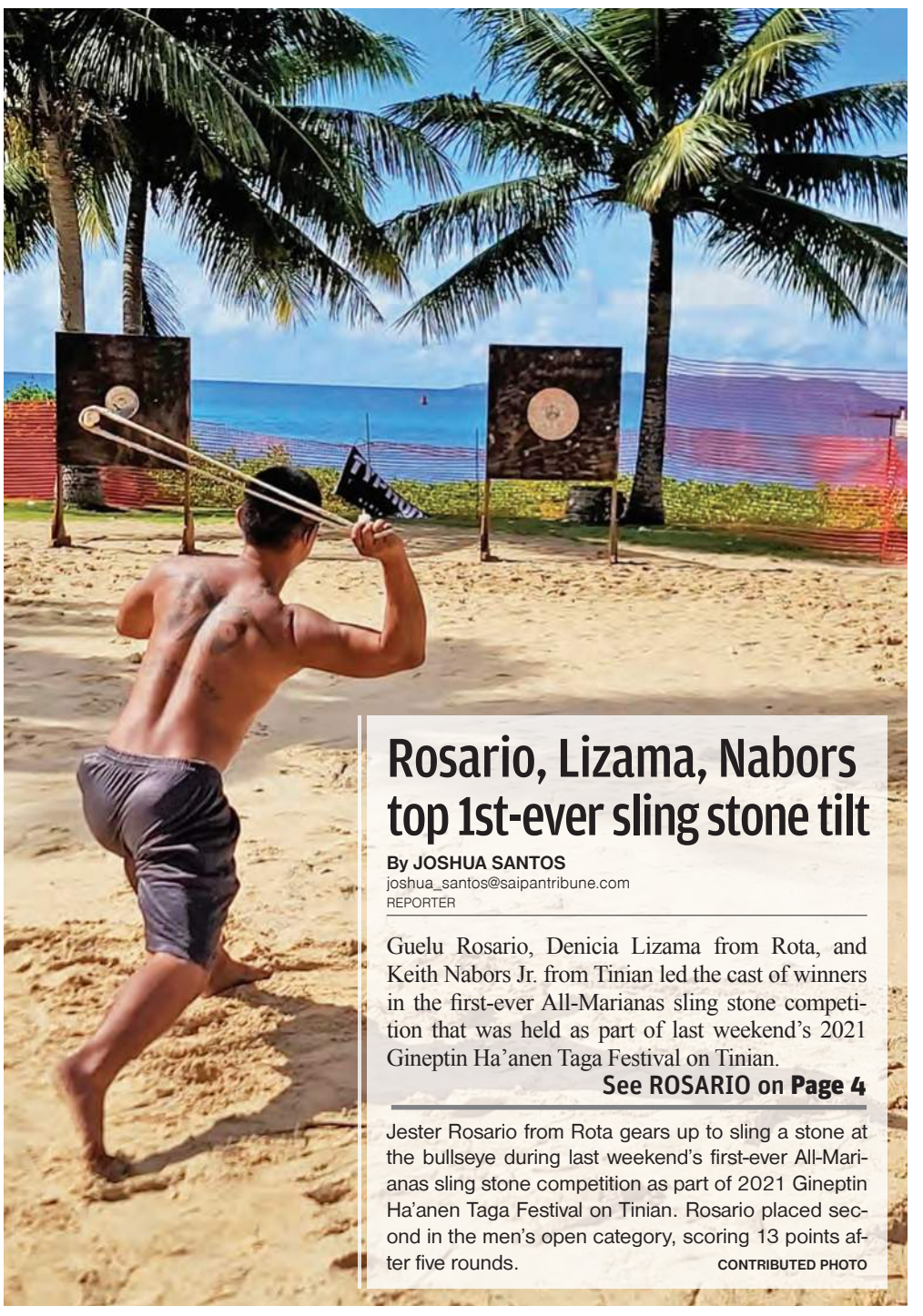
Torres

Villagomez

Speaking at the same news briefing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that, although the pandemic protocols have been in place for two years now, it continues to be a learning process and is being tweaked as the situation demands.

In response to a question during the radio briefing on how David Butterfield managed to run away from the quarantine site last Oct. 17, Villagomez said they are doing what they can to gather all the evidence in this case. Villagomez said he and others have been reviewing evidence of Butterfield walking out of

See KANOA on Page 4



Rosario, Lizama, Nabors top 1st-ever sling stone tilt

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guelu Rosario, Denicia Lizama from Rota, and Keith Nabors Jr. from Tinian led the cast of winners in the first-ever All-Marianas sling stone competition that was held as part of last weekend's 2021 Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival on Tinian.

See ROSARIO on Page 4

Jester Rosario from Rota gears up to sling a stone at the bullseye during last weekend's first-ever All-Marianas sling stone competition as part of 2021 Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival on Tinian. Rosario placed second in the men's open category, scoring 13 points after five rounds. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

China to start vaccinating kids as young as 3 as cases spread

By HUIZHONG WU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)— Children as young as 3 will start receiving COVID-19 vaccines in China, where 76% of the population has been fully vaccinated and authorities are maintaining a zero-tolerance policy toward outbreaks.

Local city and provincial level governments in at least five provinces issued notices in recent days announcing that children ages 3-11 will be required to get their vaccinations.

The expansion of the vaccination campaign comes as parts of China take new clampdown measures to try to stamp out small outbreaks. Gansu, a northwestern province heavily

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AT A GLANCE

As of 7:25pm, Oct. 25, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **83.4%**

Days since last community transmission: **215**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,413
Fully Vaccinated:	29,780
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,885
Fully Vaccinated:	4,725
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	830

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	17,543	128	17,671
Recovered	15,086	287	15,373
Active	1,943	128	2,071
Deaths	227	0	227

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	291	0	291
Traced via Travel Screening	254	0	254
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

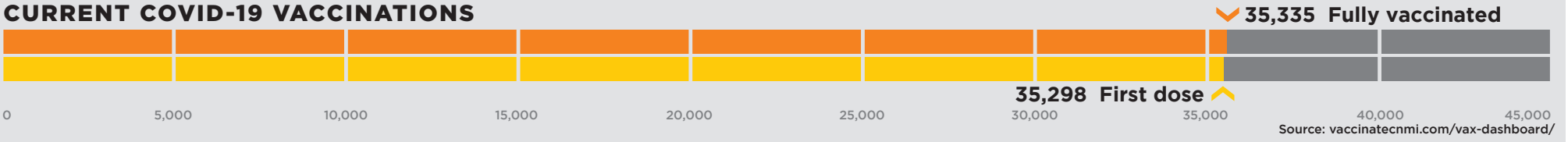
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

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The return of Tinian's Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival after two years breaks expectations.
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WORLD
Military forces detained a number of senior Sudanese government figures in a military coup.
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LIFE & STYLE
"Dune" debuts with $40.1 million in ticket sales in its opening weekend in North America.
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Local

Crowds welcome this year's Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Visitors of last weekend's "2021 Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival" on Tinian sit on benches under tents to eat and socialize.
CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

From right, Rota Municipal Council vice chair Jonovan H. Lizama, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, and RMC chair Jim M. Atalig hold up handmade tools and a sling during last weekend's "2021 Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival" on Tinian. CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, left, dances on stage during last weekend's "2021 Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival" on Tinian's festival grounds.
CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Despite the rainy weather over the weekend, the return of Tinian's Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival after a two-year hiatus broke all expectations, with crowds of residents converging on the festival grounds at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Joseph Hocog, who is the event coordinator for the Tinian Mayor's Office, said the festival, which celebrates the history of legendary cultural figure Chief Taga, had "visitors coming in from all over the region."

The three-day event (Oct. 21 to 23) also showcased CNMI culture through traditional food, performances, and arts and crafts. Hocog said in a phone interview Monday that the festivities included a presentation on traditionally prepared food, medicine, and arts and crafts hosted by the CNMI Women's Affairs Office; cooking competition for grilled fish and a youth cooking competition for *ahu'*, a warm and sweet dessert made using young coconuts; cultural performances by groups Tao Tao Taga and Ina'famaolek Youth; and more.

Hocog also said that kindergarten to sixth-grade students from Tinian Elementary School and seventh and eighth-grades from Tinian Jr./Sr. High School were brought over to the festival last Friday to enjoy the festivities and learn more about their cultures.

Official visitor numbers were unavailable Monday as guest registration is still being reviewed, Hocog said.

Hocog said this was the third edition of the festival following a two-year break due to Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contributors to the festival included the TMO, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, among others. Partners included the Rota Mayor's Office, Tinian Municipal Council, WAO, the CNMI Arts Council, and Ina'famaolek Youth.

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Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Early Check-In 10am & Late Check-Out 5pm
$140.00 per room, per night
Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Early Check-In (10am) & Late Check-Out (5pm)
Visitor Pool Pass for 2
$250.00 per room, per night
DINE & RELAX Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Dinner Buffet or Sunday Brunch for 2 at Costa
Early Check-In 10am & Late Check-Out 5pm
$180.00 per room, per night
Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Dinner Buffet or Sunday Brunch for 2 at Costa
Early Check-In 10am & Late Check-Out 5pm
Visitor Pool Pass for 2
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*Mandatory 15% Gov. Tax will be added to total room charges
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with other specials or promos
*All benefits may be used during stay duration times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Special Rates valid for stay duration within October31,2021

‘CNMI generates millions of dollars’ worth of publicity from Korea media’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas has been all over the mainstream and travel trade media in South Korea, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, who said this is generating millions of dollars in unpaid publicity for the CNMI after an explosion of social media content about the CNMI as a beautiful and safe destination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iakopo said that because of the CNMI’s Tourism Resumption Investment Plan or TRIP program and the CNMI’s travel bubble agreement with South Korea, awareness and talk about the Marianas is spreading quickly and is worth millions of dollars more than they could have afforded if MVA had to pay for it.

Iakopo

Iakopo discussed CNMI’s huge publicity in South Korea, among other issues, in her presentation last week on the Korea CNMI TRIP Program before the House of Representatives Commerce and Tourism Committee chaired by Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan).

Citing recent examples, Iakopo said the CNMI received numerous print stories in national newspapers in South Korea, as well as mentions and features from both social media influencers and many satisfied customers who have visited the islands.

In total, the CNMI has already received $1.5 million worth of total press release value since MVA hosted a Familiarization Tour last July, she said.

She said two news stories alone on two nationwide television shows, JTBC News Room and SBS News, was able to reach 5.5 million homes and generated over $300,000 worth of PR value.

For sure, Iakopo said, every travel-hungry person in South Korea has heard of the CNMI by now, and that’s good news for TRIP and for all future travel to the Marianas from South Korea.

» Explosion of social media content, satisfied customers result in overbookings

She said the CNMI’s exposure as a safe destination has been tremendous and bookings have been so strong that airlines have been reaching out to fly more or have new flights to the Marianas.

She said, however, they can’t put all the eggs in one market basket so MVA has established ad hoc committees to investigate the feasibility of starting TRIP programs for other markets, specifically Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, and greater Micronesia. She said the requirements and negotiations with each market may be different.

MVA’s Ad Hoc Committees are chaired by Tommy Kim of TanHoldings for Korea, Nick Nishikawa of Hyatt Regency Saipan for Japan, and Tom Liu of STI for Taiwan/Hong Kong.

Iakopo said the CNMI’s COVID-19 protocols will probably continue to change as COVID-19 changes.

“The MVA fully supports these protocols, which have and we believe will continue to keep our community safe and a place where visitors feel safe, too,” she said.

JGO Committee expects Dela Cruz’s affidavit today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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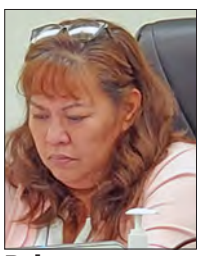
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee expects to receive today, Tuesday, the sworn affidavit of Frances Dela Cruz, the executive assistant of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, as it continues its investigation into the governor’s expenditure of public funds and travels.


Babauta

JGO Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday that unless Dela Cruz’s affidavit is labeled confidential, they will read it into the record.

Babauta said they like to over-prepare, but JGO members are not necessarily required to appear in the House chamber today if Dela Cruz will submit her affidavit by 10am.

Dela Cruz’s lawyer, Viola Alepuyo, confirmed yesterday that they will submit the affidavit today to the committee.

Dela Cruz’s scheduled testimony last Tuesday, Oct. 19, did not push through after the committee allowed her to submit her testimony via a sworn affidavit, as proposed by Ross Garber, the Washington D.C.-based lawyer of Torres and the Governor’s Office in the JGO matter. She had said that it was the decision of the committee to permit Dela Cruz to submit an affidavit as to her duties related to the subpoena that was served upon her. Babauta said such accommodation is in no way to be interpreted as giving up their legislative right to compel the physical presence of Dela Cruz to provide live testimony before the committee, nor is it conceding to whatever immunity or privileges she may or may not have.

Garber and Alepuyo earlier objected to the committee’s subpoena for Dela Cruz to testify, asserting that the executive assistant has testimonial immunity.

Man accused of lying to CBP out on bail

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man who was recently brought to court for lying to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection was released on a $3,000 unsecured bond last week.

Following his initial appearance at the U.S. District Court for the NMI Last Friday, designated judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio allowed Seongil Lee to be released on a $3,000 unsecured bond as long as he complies with terms and conditions of his release.

Lee, who is charged with one count of making false statements, was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Nov. 5, at 9am.

During the hearing, Bruce Berline was appointed by the court to represent Lee while assistant US Attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to court documents, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement filed the criminal complaint against Lee after he presented a South Korean passport in the name of “Nasaro Lee” and made false statements and representations to CBP officers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Oct. 16.

The complaint stated that Department of Homeland Security records showed that on April 5, 2010, CBP denied Lee’s entry into the United States at the Los Angeles Port of Entry. The inadmissibility was based on an interview with CBP where Lee admitted to a controlled substance conviction in Japan.

See MAN on Page 4

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Tinian Marine Stevedore wants exclusive rights to Tinian port

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc., has submitted a proposal to the Commonwealth Ports Authority seeking exclusive rights to operate as a stevedoring and terminal operator at the Port of Tinian.

According to TMSI's proposal, the company offers to pay CPA a franchise fee for exclusive rights to conduct terminal and stevedoring business at the Port of Tinian on top of the company's current lease with CPA for off-dock premises, which requires TMSI to pay a monthly rent and an additional Gross Revenue Fee, equal to 1% of the gross revenues earned and collected on the premises.

"For the exclusive right to conduct terminal and stevedoring business at the Port of Tinian, we offer the payment of a 'franchise fee.' The fee will be based on the Stevedoring Operation Gross Revenue derived from within the port operations area footprint," the company proposed.

In addition, TMSI offers an increase of the franchise fee rate of .5% every five-year period from the start of the exclusivity period.

"The arrangement would allow for further investments by TMSI to improve and secure financing in providing the best possible service. The longshoring industry is subject to heavy capital investment with equipment acquisition, repairs and maintenance and regulatory training requirements," the proposal stated.

However, a number of Tinian residents and business owners shared their concerns and even opposed the proposal during a public hearing last week.

KANOA

From Page 1

Kanoa, and said it is his and the task force's focus to build and maintain trust within the community.

"We're doing everything we can to [compile] the evidence. …We want to build confidence within our community and within our guests, so if [an] individual does not respect the [quarantine] process we need to [be] swift and make changes in our action," said Villagomez.

Butterfield was arrested last Oct. 18 on charges of obstruction of justice and public nuisance. He was returned to the quarantine site after being booked and detained. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Butterfield was subsequently released last week after completing his quarantine.

Villagomez said the Department of Public Safety is investigating the case and that Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds are aware of the case.

"Things are in motion," Villagomez said.

He said through the AG revision of the governor's directive on pandemic protocols, there is a penalty for anyone violating the public health measures. He said these measures are general and that includes arrivals, following all the protocols as well as leaving quarantine sites. Villagomez said quarantine violators face a penalty is $500 and could also be jailed, depending on the severity of the violation.

Villagomez stressed that they are not complacent and described Butterfield's case as an isolated incident. "I can assure you it's not going to happen again. But if it happens, tough measures are going to be coming to the individual," he added.

At the same press briefing, Torres noted that his COVID-19 directive has undergone changes since the beginning of the pandemic. He cited as an example alcohol, which was never part of the directive, as consuming beverages can affect passengers or returning residents. At the start, he said, they had several instances where alcohol was brought into the quarantine room and the individuals created damage in the room.

"So we had to change that protocol," he said, adding that there were certain times they had to adjust what works.

Torres assured the public that the task force has made adjustments to make it safer for the community. "At the end of the day, everyone that comes here, just follow through the protocol and we won't be adjusting things or making it stricter for others that come into CNMI. But again, safety for our community is our priority," he said.

In explaining the CNMI's approach to containing the spread of COVID-19, and why the protocols are as such, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and CHCC itself are continuing to get "a better picture of transmissibility among the vaccinated and the unvaccinated."

"What we are operating here [are] public health prevention measures before treatment. Testing, quarantine, and isolation are keys to reducing risks for this community who are now enjoying a safe environment, sports activities, and family gatherings. The quarantine protocols we implement are [focused on] the reduction of risk and do not eliminate the entire risk. ...A traveler who returns to the CNMI is putting this community at risk," said Muña.

As more data is collected and breakthrough cases are being researched, the CDC and CHCC are confident in saying that there is a reduced risk of spreading COVID-19 in fully vaccinated travelers versus unvaccinated travelers. In all cases, however, Muña said the risk of spread is not removed entirely.

"We are confident that risk is reduced when a fully vaccinated individual returns versus one who is not vaccinated. A prior infection with vaccination is a lower risk, but not an elimination of risk, so I just wanted to clarify that," Muña added.

Villagomez and Muña both confirmed last Friday that Butterfield completed his 10th and final day of quarantine on Oct. 22.

From left holding their prizes; third place in the men's open category JoeRay Mangloña from Tinian; men's first place Guelu Rosario from Rota; women's second place Siena Lazaro; men's second place Jester Rosario from Rota; and U16 fourth place Cody Dela Cruz from Tinian share a photo with other competitors after last weekend's first-ever All-Marianas sling stone competition as part of 2021 Gineptin Ha'anen Taga Festival on Tinian. A special award was given to 6-year-old Roque Dueñas Jr. from Saipan, who came out to Taga Fest for the competition. Also pictured is competition organizer Keith Nabors, third from right. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROSARIO

From Page 1

Keith Nabors, who organized the competition, said the event's 21 competitors from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam competed in three categories: men's open, women's, and U16 and a total of 16 competitors walked away with prizes, and non-competitors were treated to sling stone lessons and free slings from Nabors.

Rosario, who is from Rota, won first place in the men's category, followed by second placer Jester Rosario from Rota. In third place was JoeRay Mangloña and fourth was Ringo Reyes from Tinian.

The women's category only had two competitors and Lizama, who is from Rota, was one hit on the target enough to beat out Siena Lazaro from Tinian for first place.

First place in the U16 category was Keith Nabors Jr. from Tinian; second was KyMani Nabors from Tinian; third was Jose Mangloña from Tinian; and fourth was Cody Dela Cruz from Tinian.

A special award was given to 6-year-old Roque Dueñas Jr. from Saipan, who came out to the Taga Fest for the competition, said Nabors.

Keith Nabors explained Monday that the competitors had to stand 75 feet away from a large target with a bullseye in the middle, with zero points awarded for misses, one point for hitting the board, and two points for hitting the bullseye. Every competitor competed in five rounds, three throws each round, to post up the best score possible.

Keith Nabors was very pleased with the turnout and with how the event was run and that Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan himself told Nabors that he would like to see the sling stone competition return for 2022 Taga Fest.

"It was awesome, and I'm totally excited for the things to come. ...Next year, hopefully we can get more competitors out and more people interested. ...It's just awesome to share the culture and get the kids back into their roots, and I just want to see the sport develop," he said.

Keith Nabors added that he'd like to see sling stone throwing be part of next year's Pacific Mini Games, which Saipan will host, and he has aspirations of sending some of the CNMI's young slingers to an international sling stone throwing competition in Spain sometime next year.

CHINA

From Page 1

dependent on tourism, closed all tourist sites Monday after finding new COVID-19 cases. Residents in parts of Inner Mongolia have been ordered to stay indoors due to an outbreak there.

The National Health Commission reported 35 new cases of local transmission had been detected over the past 24 hours, four of them in Gansu. Another 19 cases were found in the Inner Mongolia region, with others scattered around the country.

China has employed lockdowns, quarantines and compulsory testing for the virus throughout the pandemic and has largely stamped out cases of local infection while fully vaccinating 1.07 billion people in its population of 1.4 billion.

In particular, the government is concerned about the spread of the more contagious delta variant by travelers and about having a largely vaccinated public ahead of the Beijing Olympics in February. Overseas spectators already have been banned from the Games, and participants will have to stay in a bubble separating them from people outside.

China's most widely used vaccines, from Sinopharm and Sinovac, have shown efficacy in preventing severe disease and transmission of the virus, based on public data. But the protection they offer against the delta variant has not been answered definitively, although officials say they remain protective.

Hubei, Fujian and Hainan provinces all issued provincial level notices alerting new vaccination requirements, while individual cities in Zhejiang province and Hunan province have also issued similar announcements.

China in June had approved two vaccines—Sinopharm's from the Beijing Institute of Biological Products and Sinovac—for children age 3-17, but it has only been vaccinating those 12 and older. In August, regulators approved another, Sinopharm's from the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products.

After the vaccines received domestic approval for children in China, foreign governments began giving the shots to children in their own countries. Cambodia uses both Sinovac and Sinopharm's shots in children 6-11. Regulators in Chile approved Sinovac for children as young as 6. In Argentina, regulators approved the Sinopharm vaccine for children as young as age 3.

Many developing countries left out of the race to get shots from Western pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer and Moderna bought Chinese vaccines. China has shipped more than 1.2 billion doses as of September, according to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Even with widespread domestic and global use, not every parent is reassured about the vaccine, citing less publicly available data on the shots.

Wang Lu, who lives in the southern city of Fuzhou in Fujian province, said she isn't particularly rushing to get her 3-year-old son vaccinated.

MAN

From Page 3

Lee also admitted to serving five years and eight months of imprisonment for trafficking a controlled substance into Japan from South Korea.

On May 21, 2019, Lee submitted an Electronic System for Travel Authorization application through the DHS official website. However, because Lee's ESTA application failed to disclose that he was a convicted felon, the application was denied.

Then, on Oct. 1, 2021, an ESTA application was submitted using the name "Nasaro Lee," that also failed to disclose Seongil Lee's prior felony conviction. The ESTA application under "Nasaro Lee" was approved on Oct. 1, 2021, and he was admitted to Saipan, according to DHS' system.

On Oct. 16, Lee presented a South Korean passport in the name of "Nasaro Lee" at the Saipan airport with a different date of birth and also presented his fingerprints to CBP.

The complaint noted that the fingerprints obtained from Seongil Lee's previous encounters and Nasaro Lee matched.

In addition, after reviewing images taken by CBP of Lee back in 2010 and comparing it to the image taken of Nasaro Lee last October 16, ICE claims they are the same individual.

Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

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- For Open Enrollment inquiries, contact Pacifica locally at: **670-234-6267** Monday — Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
- For non-OE related inquiries, contact our Member Service Center 24/7 at: **800-231-7729**

Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: **www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli**
- CNMI Dept of Finance: **www.dof.gov.mp**
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: **www.pacificains.com/ghlit**

Deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency or Department of Human Resources
- Retirees and surviving spouses: to Pacifica located in the Joeten Shopping Center, Insatto St., Susupe

Open enrollment runs Monday, October 25 - Friday, December 10.

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Oleai Elementary School's September PGFC participants pose for a souvenir photo inside their school campus with OES school principal Jasylene Parico and OES PGFC coordinator Esther Manzano.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OES Turtles return to PGFC competition with a bang

After a year of not joining the Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition because of no face-to-face instruction last school year, Oleai Elementary School returned this year to the first virtual monthly qualifying PGFC competition in September and, like their school mascot, the turtle, OES students slowly but surely placed in a variety of events in the competition.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, almost all of the events were pre-recorded video entries. The only live event for PGFC was Impromptu Speaking via Google Meet—only the competitors and judges can enter the live meeting.

PGFC competition encourages public and private school from kindergarten to fifth grade students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic performing arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

The OES family thanks all its competitors for doing the best they can in accomplishing their goals. "Thank you to all the parents who helped in preparing their children at home as well as the teachers and judges for the support and help they have given in this competition," the school said in a press statement. ***(PR)***

K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation
Hallie Marianne Padolina, 2nd Place

Humorous Interpretation
Francisco Tudela, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speaking
Hallie Marianne Padolina, 1st Place

Reader's Forum
Julienne Rhyme Casuncad, 4th Place

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation
Tianmei Jia, 1st Place
Brent Villanueva, 2nd Place

Humorous Interpretation
Amlesh David Jr.Jha, 1st Place
Isabel Maximina Carreon,2nd Place
Eidrian Calibo, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation A
Jovanalyn Mettao, 1st Place
Aleizah Kinarose Nepaial, 2nd Place

Marvic James Javaluyas, 2nd Place
Hannah Gabrielle Ramos, 2nd Place

Zoe Ardieta, 3rd Place
Chineinalyn Jones, 3rd Place

Choral Speaking
Jovanalyn Mettao, 1st Place
Aleizah Kinarose Nepaial, 1st Place
Isabel Maximina Carreon,1st Place
Erricka Long,1st Place
Mario Jr. Sedanza, 1st Place

Impromptu Speaking
Hanna Marie Padolina, 1st Place
Mario Jr. Sedanza, 2nd Place
Alexander Joseph Salundaguit, 3rd Place
Elaia Rhyme Tamayo, 4th Place

Reader's Forum A
Eidrian Calibo, 4th Place

Reader's Forum B
Alexander Joseph Salundaguit,1st Place
Hanna Marie Padolina, 2nd Place
Leila Leightley, 4th Place

Reader's Forum C
Tianmei Jia, 1st Place
Marvic James Javaluyas, 4th Place

Reader's Forum D
Zoe Ardieta, 2nd Place
Brent Villanueva, 3rd Place

Reader's Forum E
Enyan Tang, 3rd Place

CCLHS
Chineinalyn Jones, 1st Place

NMC School of Education info session

Individuals who are looking to pursue a career in education can attend a free informational session hosted by the Northern Marianas College today, Oct. 26, 2021 at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library in Building O. The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

In addition to the programs offered by the School of Education, college personnel will discuss the admissions process and the available financial aid for the spring 2022 semester.

NMC's School of Education offers multiple degree programs, such as:

- Bachelor of Science in Education, Early Childhood Concentration
- Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education Concentration
- Bachelor of Science in Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services Concentration
- Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education Concentration

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2022 semester, a savings of about $75. As part of NMC's COVID-19 safety protocols, participants are asked to wear masks or face coverings when on campus.

The first day of classes will be on Jan. 18, 2022. Apply now to register for courses and for financial aid. Currently, up to $3,247 is available in federal financial aid to qualified students.

Contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

SUPPLY and DELIVERY OF VEHICLE
INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 22-0001

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed Bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) 4X4 Crew Cab, Long bed Pickup Truck.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the N**MC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing October 12, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m.** for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Sealed Bids Submission:
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, November 12, 2021 (CNMI).

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities- Disaster Grant, Case Number 62-005-91982292

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/15/2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Opinion on how to maintain the public health safety from Rota and keeping services (R.Glass)
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report
  B. CNMI-Tyler Intergovernment Software Update
  C. Update on Proposed Regulations
    1. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
    2. Addiction Professional
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
    1. Senate Bill 22-08 "CNMI Higher Education Act of 2021"
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  • Peter Geissler – Radiology Technology applicant
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2021

Opening date: October 11, 2021 **Closing date: October 29, 2021**

Positions: (3) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Maintenance/Custodial-I (CPA Rota)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF-I (CPA Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 29, 2021.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CURRENCY EXCHANGE SERVICES
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-RFP-001-21
CPA Concession No.: SCX-2021-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from firms, companies, and/or corporations for currency exchange services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. This concession is for the exclusive right to offer currency exchange, travel insurance, and other related services as applicable, including, but not limited to, the sale and purchase of foreign currency banknotes, drafts, money transfer, travelers check, and any other travel related products that are not related products precluded by other concessionaire agreements in the Airport.

The RFP will be issued and available for pick-up beginning **October 07, 2021**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on holidays. The RFP includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Prospective proposers will be required to pay a non-refundable administrative fee of $50.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the proposal. Payments are accepted in the form of cash, credit card, and certified cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than **October 25, 2021.**

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"RFP TECHNICAL SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL; CONCESSION NO. SXC-2021-01."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the technical proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, November 18, 2021**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. Proposers that submit proposals deemed to be Sufficiently Acceptable pursuant to the terms of this RFP will be invited to submit Price Bids and will be notified of the time, date, and location for submittal of such Price Bids.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

10/04/21
Date

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Joe I. Quitugua, Petitioner
-vs-
Haiyan Huang, Respondent

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0382

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505122, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Students rate Marianas 'average' to 'very safe' for travel

Marianas Tourism Education Council acting chair Vicky Benavente speaks about job opportunities in the tourism industry during the presentation of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority on Oct. 18, 2021, at Kagman High School on Saipan. MTEC

When it comes to safe travel, students at Kagman High School rated the Marianas "average" to "very safe" in several categories.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority took an informal poll of students during its presentation of "Safe Travel & Marianas Tourism" at Kagman High on Monday, Oct. 18, as part of MTEC's annual school outreach to educate students on the Marianas tourism industry, the MVA, and how young people can support tourism.

Most students rated the Marianas as "safe" to "very safe" in the category of Health and Medical Safety, an acknowledgement of the destination's successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its ability to provide medical services.

Students also rated the Marianas "safe" to "very safe" in the categories of Property Safety and Political Freedom, including government stability and freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

However, some students felt the Marianas was only "average" in the category of Personal Safety, pointing out that frequent polluted and "red-flagged" beaches pose a hazard to personal well-being.

"On average, students seem to agree that, overall, the Marianas can assure potential visitors that it is a safe place to travel to," said MTEC board member Catherine Perry. "However, they are also realistic about some of our shortcomings when it comes to travel safety and what is needed to improve our destination."

Students also provided feedback on what tourism-related jobs they might be interested in pursuing in the future, and what more they would like to learn about their own islands to share with visitors—everything from the geology of the islands to myths and legends.

MTEC acting chair Vicky Benavente began the presentation with an emphasis on future job opportunities in the tourism industry for students. MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda detailed the overall responsibilities of the MVA in promoting the Marianas.

"It is always a great opportunity to showcase the importance of tourism to the students. We hope we are able to encourage them to explore a career in tourism since it is a leading industry in the CNMI," said Aranda.

MTEC presents annually to public schools and is targeting 10th grade in school year 2021-2022.

Other MTEC board members are Priscilla M. Iakopo (MVA), Martin Duenas (MVA), Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (PDI), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). Dr. Yunzi Zhang of the NMC School of Business also volunteers with the council and donates school supplies.

MTEC offers advisor stipends and other support to MY WAVE Clubs, as well as scholarship opportunities to graduating seniors who have been a member of a MY WAVE Club during high school. Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club may contact Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 664-3200. ***(MTEC)***

Eligible HK residents may apply for EADs, travel OK with USCIS

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued a *Federal Register* notice with information on how to apply for employment authorization for eligible Hong Kong residents covered under the president's Aug. 5 memorandum directing Deferred Enforced Departure for 18 months, through Feb. 5, 2023.

DED for Hong Kong residents applies only to certain eligible Hong Kong residents who were present in the United States as of Aug. 5, 2021; who have continuously resided here since that date; and who meet other eligibility criteria described in the president's memorandum. For purposes of this DED policy, Hong Kong residents are individuals of any nationality, or without nationality, who have met the requirements and been issued a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport, a British National Overseas passport, a British Overseas Citizen passport, a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card, or an HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes.

There is no application for DED. Eligibility requirements for Hong Kong residents who are covered under DED are based on the terms described in the president's directive and any relevant implementing requirements established by the Department of Homeland Security.

Eligible Hong Kong residents may apply for an Employment Authorization Document by submitting a completed Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. Eligible Hong Kong residents covered by the president's DED memorandum may also receive travel authorization. Individuals must file Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, for advance parole if they wish to travel based on DED. ***(USCIS)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

COVID-19 vaccine for kids age 5 to 11 could be a lifesaver

The White House announced Wednesday that it is ready to roll out COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5 to 11 if the Food and Drug Administration approves Pfizer's application for emergency use in early November.

The Biden administration said it has bought enough doses for all 28 million children in that age group and will work with state and local leaders to make the vaccine available at more than 25,000 pediatricians' offices as well as hospitals, schools, pharmacies and community health centers.

Once the FDA gives its approval, parents should move quickly to protect young children from the coronavirus.

The vaccines previously given the OK by the FDA are safe and protect people from a virus that has killed 728,000 Americans.

In late September the FDA began studying data collected in a trial that included more than 2,000 children. Pfizer officials said children were given two smaller doses of the vaccine than those given to those 12 and older. Pfizer reported that the smaller doses produced antibody responses that were comparable to those seen in a study of people 16 to 25 who received full doses. Pfizer also said the study showed similar side effects to those seen in adults, such as arm soreness and fatigue.

Failure to vaccinate young children not only puts them at risk, but also places everyone they come in contact with at greater risk, including classmates, relatives or friends of classmates, some of whom may not be able to be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Children are less likely to become severely ill from COVID-19. But more than a quarter of the reported weekly COVID cases in the United States in the last month came from children under the age of 18. The American Academy of Pediatrics said that nearly 6 million Americans younger than 18 have been infected with the coronavirus. The New York Times reports that the delta variant put nearly 30,000 children in hospitals in August. And 125 children ages 5 to 11 in the United States have died from COVID-19.

The FDA in May expanded emergency use authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12-15. The agency gave full approval of vaccines for everyone 16 and older in late September.

The sooner the vaccines receive full approval for all school age children, the better.

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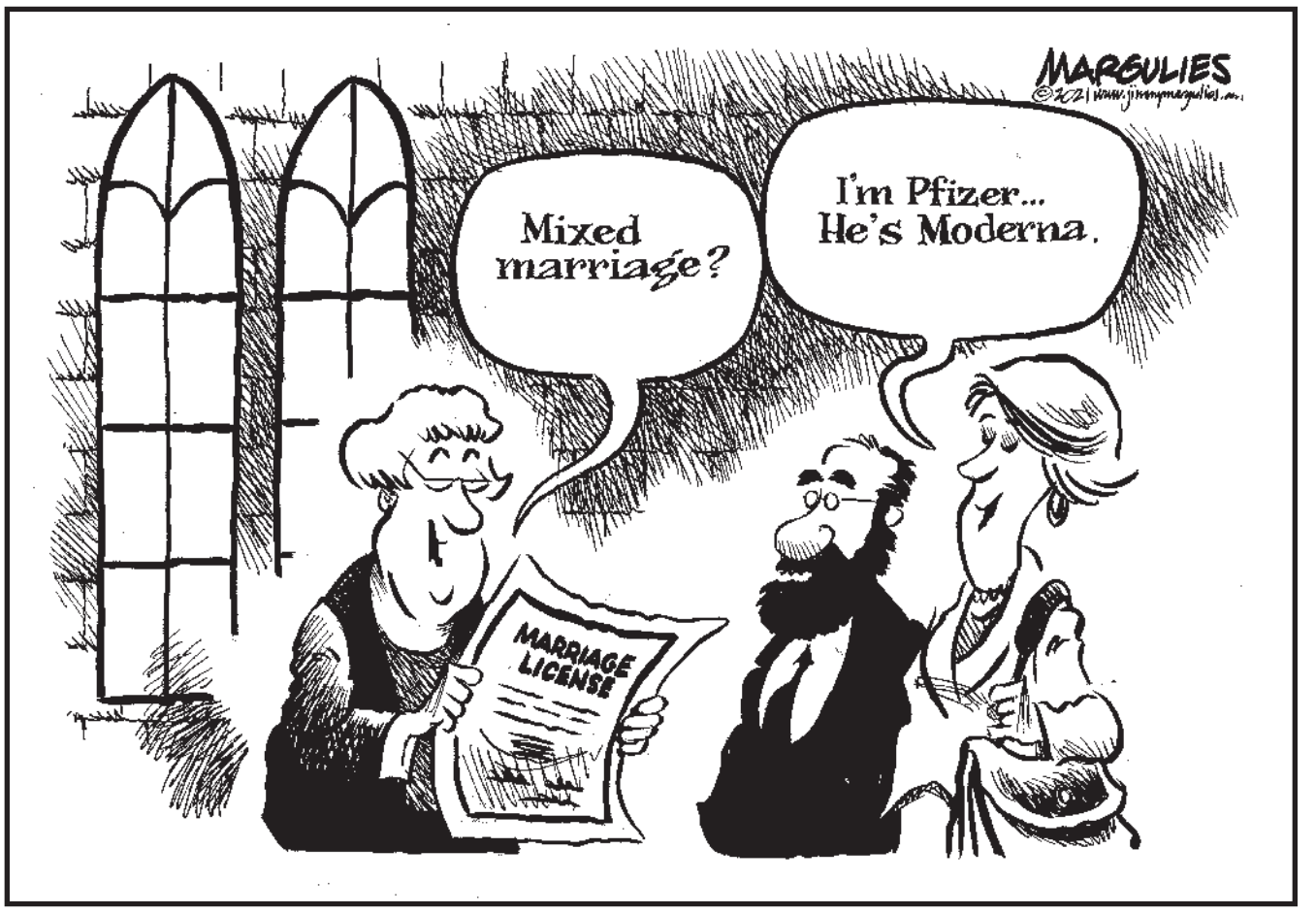


Which programs for children should Democrats cut?

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a senior editor at National Review and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.*

It's not exactly Sophie's Choice, but it's still painful for Democrats. Their big spending bill includes three programs for children: a subsidy for child care, monthly checks to parents and a paid family leave program. But they need the vote of Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, and he says they can have only one of the three. They should go with the checks.

Each idea has its advocates, as a New York Times survey of experts in family policy demonstrated. Deciding among them requires picking which of multiple goals is most important.

The Times quoted a sociologist who argued that paid leave was necessary for "changing gender norms both at work and at home." Another sociologist backed making child care cheaper for parents because it "would likely pull more women in the workforce."

Sending checks to parents, as the proposal to expand the tax credit for children would do, does not directly advance those objectives. Families could use the extra money to allow new mothers to take a few months off from paid employment with an eye toward resuming it. Fathers, too, for that matter.

But families with mothers who work for money only part-time, or not at all, would also get the checks. They might even use the money to help finance a reduction in paid work.

That flexibility ought to be considered one of the tax credit's virtues. Families vary in their needs and desires. We generally, and rightly, leave it to parents to make judgments about what's best for their children.

If a policy aims to send resources to help families with children, then why not give them the money and let them do what they want with it? The federal government should not put its thumb on the scale to encourage more mothers to stay at home or to earn an income.

Some readers, especially those of a libertarian bent, would go further and say that the government should be neutral between households with and without children—and not transfer resources from the childless to parents in the first place.

There is also a more technical economic argument for helping two-income families that need to pay for child care. Since we tax people's pay, we should give tax breaks for incurring the costs associated with paid work. That's not a special favor for two-income families, the argument continues. The only reason we don't give a corresponding tax break to couples with a stay-at-home parent is that we're not taxing the second parent's work in the first place.

Both the principled objection to helping parents at all and the technical case for helping two-earners in particular are, however, blinkered. Aid to parents is not, in the first place, a way of favoring them over non-parents: It's a way of helping children. Some households don't have children, yes, but all future households are run by former children. Governments need not be indifferent to the welfare and even the existence of future citizens.

We also have a large implicit tax on parents, and especially on parents of large families. As I've argued elsewhere, one hidden effect of the federal government's programs for the elderly is to transfer resources from large families to small ones.

Social Security and Medicare rely for their financing not only on the taxes of current workers but on their making the financial sacrifices necessary to raise families. Your benefits do not depend on you, personally, making the financial sacrifices needed to raise a family raising children; but they do depend on other people doing it. Families with stay-at-home moms will tend to lose out from this arrangement because they tend to be larger.

Giving money to parents based on how many children they are raising, and without regard to how they divide paid and unpaid work, offsets an existing bias in federal policy against children without creating any new one among different households with children. So that's what pro-family legislation should do.

Picking the child credit and dropping the other proposals would begin to address Senator Manchin's conditions. But he has others. He thinks that households that receive the credit should have to work. (Presumably, he means at least one parent in each household.)

That idea divides advocates of a larger tax credit. Some of them argue that the credit doesn't do much to discourage paid work and that parents who aren't in the labor force often have good reasons for it, such as being in school or disabled.

Some kind of connection to work effort on the part of recipient households is probably a political necessity, though, and not just to gain Manchin's support. Polls and focus groups are finding soft support for the credit, and the possibility that parents will freeload seems to be generating a lot of resistance.

The way forward for Democrats on this piece of their spending bill, then, ought to be clear: Stick with the child credit, include a work requirement—and get Manchin's sign-off.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The new missile gap

By RICH LOWRY
© 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Biden administration is hesitant to call our competition with China a new Cold War, even though Beijing has zero qualms about making the parallels with our decades-long struggle with the Soviet Union abundantly clear.

We are once again discussing a "Sputnik moment," a nuclear arms race, and a missile gap—all throwbacks to the 1950s-1980s—thanks to China's aggressive pursuit of military capabilities designed to deter and defeat the United States.

Whatever Beijing may say and however we may try to comfort ourselves with cushioning delusions, the Chinese have repeatedly made it plain that they intend to hold U.S. bases and our homeland at risk.

The example of Sputnik, the primitive Soviet satellite launched in 1957 that raised the prospect of the U.S. losing the space race, was on everyone's lips with a bombshell *Financial Times* report over the weekend.

According to the FT, the Chinese tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that circled the Earth once before descending on its target, thus demonstrating "an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise."

It's not clear why anyone would be shocked. It wasn't a secret that China and Russia were developing these technologies, and indeed, it wasn't a secret that China had leapt ahead of us.

(The Chinese, bringing the same transparency they've shown regarding the origins of COVID-19, say it was just a routine space launch.)

Hypersonic missiles bring a new element to the ever-evolving competition between missile offense and defense.

As former state department official Christian Brose notes in his book *The Kill Chain*, ballistic missiles travel fast but in a predictable parabolic path. Cruise missiles, on the other hand, travel relatively slowly but are maneuverable and therefore unpredictable.

Hypersonic missiles are both unpredictable and fast—six times faster than a Tomahawk missile.

That means they are uniquely suited to defeat our missile defenses. Not only can't we counter them, we can't track them adequately at the moment.

Over the summer, the head of North American Aerospace Defense Command—yes, that's NORAD of Cold War fame—said that the new missiles would pose "significant challenges to my NORAD capability to provide threat warning and attack assessment."

The FT reports that the test missile missed its target by roughly two dozen miles. That's a significant miss but wouldn't necessarily be that much comfort if the missile were carrying a nuclear payload. And the targeting will presumably be improved—that's one reason to carry out the test in the first place.

An MIT professor told the FT that just because China tested the capability doesn't mean that it will deploy it. But the history of expansionistic totalitarian states forbearing from fielding advanced weapons after pouring significant time and resources into developing them is not, to say the least, very encouraging.

It'd be best if we abandon all wishful thinking and admit the obvious.

We've had a zombie arms control policy focused on deals with Russia, while China has been aggressively adding new weapons and delivery systems.

We've allowed China to rob our technology and pour it into developing threats against us.

We've been much too slow in developing the next generation of weapons, including hypersonic missiles, and are modernizing our nuclear triad at a glacial pace while China is rapidly adding new capabilities.

The response to the new circumstances should reflect a Cold War-era urgency. The Biden administration has proposed more spending on hypersonic missiles, but the latest news should mean even more of an emphasis on their rapid deployment, so we can hold at risk Chinese assets and maintain our deterrence.

We should, with an eye to the growing Chinese missile threat, deploy missile-defense interceptors in Australia and more sensors in space, as well as work toward directed-energy weapons that would be the best counter to hypersonic missiles.

If we aren't going to call it a new Cold War, we must—or risk falling further behind—treat it as one.

Mind your XYZs for those of us with names at the back of the line

By WONPYO YUN
Los Angeles Times

When I was 5 and entering kindergarten in a New York City suburb, my Korean mom, recognizing the importance of being first, gently encouraged me to change my name to Aaron. A stubborn only child, I refused, confused about the proposition.

My first name is Wonpyo. My last name is Yun. In either case, I am near—if not at—the bottom of every roster, with the occasional exception of a Zachary or Zimmerman. Through the pandemic, scrolling through Zoom's participants tab, I subconsciously remember only the participants with A and B names, having failed to make it down the list.

The fact is, a disproportionate number of Asians and Asian Americans fall to the bottom of the alphabetical order. And that can put them, as well as others near the end, at a disadvantage.

In one class last spring at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, for example, seven of the 11 students at the bottom of the list had names of Asian origin. Ahead of me were a Wang and a Watanabe, behind me a Zhao, a Zheng, a Zhou and a Zou.

Based on 2010 U.S. census data, 12% of all respondents have last names that begin with the letters T through Z. Among Asian respondents, 25% have last names that begin with those letters at the end of the alphabet.

What's the big deal? Research shows that in academic citations, articles listed earlier—alphabetically by author's last name—were cited more frequently than those later in the list. Stocks with tickers closer to the top of the alphabet have higher trading activity and liquidity. Yet minimal research has been completed on the effect of this bias on individuals by race or ethnicity.

I, too, have been on the other side of alphabetical bias. At my former job at an investment bank, recruiting summer interns, I was instructed to select 30 college juniors to invite for a first-round interview. I opened the resume book, a merged PDF of 240 resumes arranged alphabetically by last name.

Instinctively, I started at the top and by the time I was halfway through the stack, I had already assigned 80% of my interview slots. For the latter half of applicants, I was subconsciously setting a higher bar. I told myself I'd go back, cross-compare and refine my ranking. But after working a gruesome 90-hour week, I never reopened the list and sent it off to HR. Later, I noticed that the Ws, Xs, Ys and Zs had a disproportionately high share of students with Asian last names.

Though I've worked hard to be where I am today (I've also been lucky), I wonder how many more early looks I might have had, or interviews offered, had I followed my mom's suggestion of going by Aaron, a name with not one but two A's. I wonder if I might have developed more confidence with the increased visibility and implicit affirmation of being called first—especially as a shy, late-blooming Asian American who spent his adolescence and early adulthood in the closet.

Asians and Asian Americans fight their fair share of biases and discrimination: the "model minority" myth and consequent "bamboo ceiling"; the lack of representation in the media; and, more recently, the rise and persistence in hate crimes stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Why add another challenge, let alone one that has arisen from a mechanical, organizational custom?

The practice of alphabetizing is intimately ingrained in our society. I am not proposing we abolish it but rather calling attention to some of the unintended consequences. Artificial intelligence and other personalized technologies can avoid this bias, but they haven't been adopted in all circumstances.

In the meantime, there are ways for teachers, employers, stock pickers and others to get around the pitfalls of alphabetical lists. Why not start with the Zs every so often, whether taking attendance in class or creating a guest list? Or print that resume book and throw the pages into the air to shuffle it into a random order? In short, be mindful of your XYZs, as well as your ABCs. A bit of flexibility and creativity could make things fairer for those of us at the back of the line.

Wonpyo Yun, a recent graduate of the Stanford Graduate School of Business, is a biotechnology investor in New York.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A blind-eye candidate

It is ridiculous for Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate to profess they will "rebuild trust in government" when both of them have proven that they can't be trusted. The lieutenant governor admitted to turning a blind eye to the activities of the governor and even said, "If I didn't sign [the travel documents], someone else would." So he turns a blind eye, making him a co-conspirator to the governor's activities. For the lieutenant governor to say he knew some things were not legal but he "deferred to the [Finance] secretary who assured him it was OK" is asking voters to just turn a blind eye to his blind-eyed negligence.

The lieutenant governor sat up there for three years watching the governor, only to act surprised when he had to testify at the JGO hearing. I guess he thinks voters are stupid. If Lt. Gov. Palacios was so interested in the people trusting our government, why didn't he say something and even do something like we have seen lieutenant governors do when the governor is not being responsible and accountable.

The "you-know-who" politicians are known for saying anything they think will help their cause but this "rebuilding trust" is a ridiculous whitewashing of his failures with his blind eye to what the governor was doing since he helped create the mistrust!

Yes, trust does need to be rebuilt in our government but he is the last blind-eyed person on Earth who can be trusted after all the things he saw that led to the mistrust and didn't say anything. Now he's trying to play the old "independent-Republican trick" that won't fool voters again.

Kudos and thanks to Kilili for his desire to run and help the Democrats restore some real integrity and trust. No one can deny that Kilili is doing a great job in Washington, D.C. where we need him the most and where he can do the most for the people. But I was so glad to hear him on Kandit talking about how bad the CNMI is looking under this governor with a lieutenant governor who is now trying to distance himself. Kilili really blew my mind when he referred to "Basta" (enough) because I had already written the first two paragraphs of this letter when I heard him on the broadcast. He is also tired of the embarrassments he has to face in Congress because of the RICO and JGO investigations on our governor, making the CNMI look like a third-world country with a dictator.

I also hope the JGO will prosecute everyone who does not show up and testify because an affidavit can't be asked additional related questions. Continue on JGO but "don't let one monkey stop the show," as we say. And please note in the final investigation report that the lieutenant governor was cooperative with his testimony. However, it was very clear the lieutenant governor failed over a three-year period to blow the whistle on the governor's behavior as it was his fiduciary duty to the people to promote, protect, and defend our laws at all times. Kilili was right about the lieutenant governor, so please don't let him get away free and clean of any guilt because he clearly knew better and turned a blind eye.

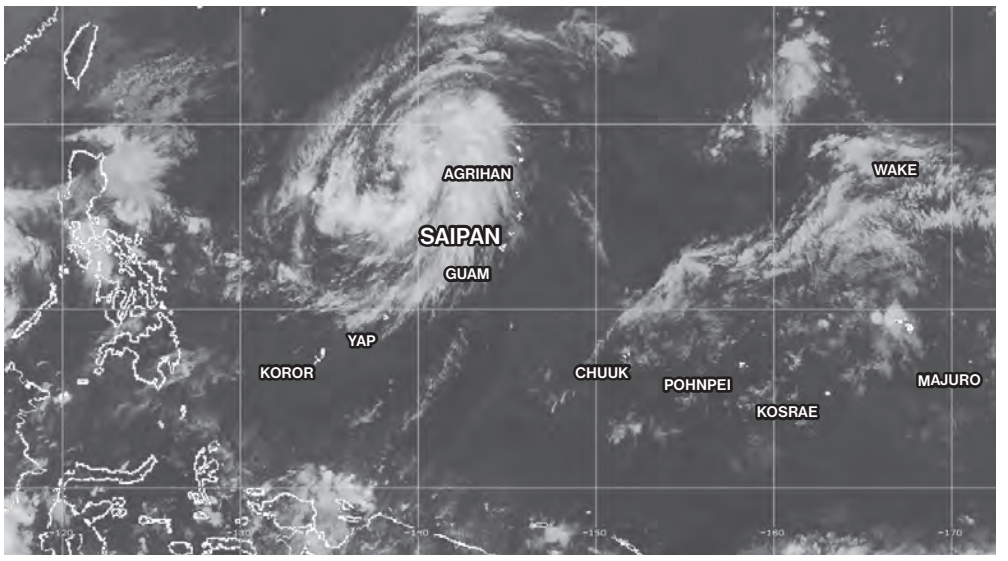
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Lows around 76. Highs around 86.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of showers 20 percent.
86° / 76°	80° / 70°	80° / 70°	80° / 70°	80° / 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:59 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A sunny next few days will allow the Marianas to dry out from the last few days of rain. Tropical Storm 25W will continue to move away from the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Fair	88 / 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87 / 78 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87 / 80 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	88 / 79 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	89 / 76 °F
Kosrae	Showers in the Vicinity	84 / 79 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85 / 81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:36 AM	9:59 PM
Wednesday	-	11:27 AM	10:50 PM
Thursday	-	12:16 PM	11:44 PM
Friday	-	1:04 PM	-
Saturday	12:38	1:48 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	67 / 59 °F
Beijing	Haze	65 /41 °F
Hong Kong	Fair	77 / 71 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78 / 74 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	60 / 47 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	61 / 59 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	87 / 77 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	87 / 77 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81 / 78 °F
New York	Showers in the Vicinity	60 / 59 °F
Osaka	Rain	60 / 57 °F
Paris	Cloudy	61 / 46 °F
Busan	Fair	71 / 53 °F
Rome	Fair	74 / 57 °F
Salem	Rain Shower	66 / 67 °F
San Francisco	Rain	57 / 55 °F
Seoul	Sunny	63 / 41 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	66 / 54 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	63 / 61 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:44 AM	Low Tide	-0.09
12:18 AM	High Tide	1.59
5:42 PM	Low Tide	1.22
9:42 PM	High Tide	1.44

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Business economists less optimistic about next year's growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's business economists are slightly less optimistic about growth prospects over the next year, noting a number of threats ranging from higher-than-expected inflation to lingering disruptions from COVID-19 and snarled supply chains.

The National Association for Business Economics released a new report Monday that found 66% of NABE members responding to a survey expect the economy to grow by 3% to 5.9% over the next year while 28% were less optimistic, pegging growth over the next year at a far slower 0.1% to 2.9%.

That result represented a downgrade from the previous survey in July which had found an identical 66% who believed growth would be 3% to 5.9% but 20% of those surveyed expected growth to come in at an even stronger 6% to 8.9%. In the new survey, no NABE member saw growth higher than the 3% to 5.9% range over the next year.

The NABE forecast for GDP over the next year is generally in line with the expectations of many private forecasting firms.

The government on Thursday will release its first look at economic growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, for the July-September quarter. Economists are forecasting GDP grew at an annual rate of around 3% in the third quarter, a marked slowdown from growth rates of 6.1% in the first quarter and 6.7% in the second quarter.

The slowdown has been attributed to a surge in cases from the delta variant over the summer and supply chain problems which disrupted manufacturing output in many sectors, especially auto production and helped send consumer prices rising at the fastest pace in 13 years.

The NABE survey found 33% of those responding saw increased cost pressures as the biggest risk to their company's outlook followed closely by 28% of NABE survey respondents who saw the possibility of higher COVID-19 cases as the biggest threat. Twenty percent saw further problems with supply chains as the biggest threat.

On the other side, 31% of the business economists saw an improving coronavirus outlook as offering the biggest potential for stronger growth than they are forecasting, followed by 26% who saw faster improvements in the supply chain problems as offering the biggest upside potential.

The NABE survey found that 47% of the survey group indicated their companies were experiencing worker shortages, up from 39% in July. None of the NABE survey members felt these labor shortages would be resolved by the end of this year but 36% felt the labor situation will improve in 2022 while 14% said the labor shortages would still be around in 2023 or even later.

In terms of the supply chain problems, half of those surveyed said their companies were experiencing delays or shortages in receiving materials, up from 40% in the July survey.

Two-thirds of the NABE survey group, 65%, reported that sales had increased at their firms in the third quarter, down slightly from the 66% who had reported rising sales in the second quarter.

"It is clear that the finance, insurance and real estate sectors experienced a strong third quarter according to survey respondents while the transportation, utilities, information and communication sectors suffered the largest deterioration across the board," said Eugenio J. Alemán, chief economist at the Energy Information Administration and the chair of the NABE business conditions survey.

The NABE survey represented responses from 91 NABE members to the survey conducted Oct. 6-14.

AP source: Manchin agreeable to a wealth tax for Biden plan

Manchin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pivotal Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin appears to be on board with White House proposals for new taxes on billionaires and certain corporations to help pay for President Joe Biden's scaled-back social services and climate change package.

Biden huddled with the conservative West Virginia Democrat and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer at the president's Delaware home Sunday as they work on resolving the disputes between centrists and progressives that have stalled the Democrats' wide-ranging bill. A person who requested anonymity to discuss Manchin's position told The Associated Press the senator is agreeable to the White House's new approach on the tax proposals.

What had been a sweeping $3.5 trillion plan is now being eyed as $1.75 trillion package. That's within a range that could still climb considerably higher, according to a second person who requested anonymity to discuss the private talks.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that even at "half" the original $3.5 trillion proposed, Biden's signature domestic initiative would be larger than any other legislative package with big investments in health care, child care and strategies to tackle climate change.

"It is less than what was projected to begin with, but it's still bigger than anything we have ever done in terms of addressing the needs of America's working families," Pelosi said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

Democrats are working intensely to try again to wrap up talks on the measure so the president can spotlight his administration's achievements to world leaders at two overseas summits on the economy and climate change that get underway this week.

Biden met with Manchin and Schumer, D-N.Y., at the president's home in Wilmington after Democrats missed last week's deadline to resolve disputes. Biden has said he'd like to see a $2 trillion package and they are trying again this upcoming week to reach agreement.

It's unclear what level of the new taxes Manchin would support, but he generally backs the White House proposals, according to the person who requested anonymity to discuss Manchin's position. Neither person requesting anonymity was authorized to discuss the negotiations by name.

Toyota testing hydrogen combustion engines in race cars

A man walks by the logo on a Toyota car at a showroom in Tokyo on Oct. 18, 2021. AP

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota said Monday it is testing hydrogen combustion engines in race cars as it works toward using the technology in commercial products.

Such engines burn hydrogen as fuel instead of gasoline, much like rockets. The Japanese automaker said testing the technology in race cars will allow it to collect data and try to fix problems on-site.

Toyota Motor Corp. announced earlier that it was developing a hydrogen combustion engine, which Ford Motor Co. and other automakers have also developed. Vehicles powered by such engines are different from fuel cell vehicles that use hydrogen to create electricity, and from electric or hybrid vehicles.

"We want to propose multiple options to meet regional needs," Naoyuki Sakamoto, chief engineer of the hydrogen-powered engine Corolla model, said in an online news conference.

Sakamoto declined to say when the hydrogen combustion engine may become a commercial product, acknowledging further development are needed to address its so far limited driving range. Infrastructure for fueling such vehicles is another obstacle.

One advantage of hydrogen engines is that minimal adjustments are needed from regular internal combustion engines, except for the fuel piping and injection systems.

The use of hydrogen as fuel comes with some risk concerns, but hydrogen fueling stations are operating across Japan, with no major accidents so far.

Sakamoto said hydrogen is as safe as any other fuel on roads today, noting lithium-ion batteries used in EVs have caused fires, and hydrogen tanks are made of carbon fiber.

The latest hydrogen technology is being tested on a Yaris with a 1.6 liter engine for racing, according to Toyota.

Two hydrogen tanks fit in the back seat area of the racing car, although that is likely to change for commercial models.

Hydrogen may offer some advantages. Batteries for EVs require various minerals, while hydrogen is relatively plentiful in the environment and can be readily stored and transported.

Hydrogen can be created from water by electrolysis, often carried out in school chemistry experiments. Hydrogen can also be converted from solar energy for storage. But depending on how widespread such fuel may become, it could be a lot cheaper to fill up your car than gasoline, whose prices fluctuate wildly. Toyota also said it was producing hydrogen at a geothermal power station in southern Japan.

Australia invests in $1.6 billion South Pacific telco deal

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian telco Telstra has partnered with the Australian government in a $1.6 billion deal to buy the South Pacific operations of Digicel in a deal that would prevent a key part of the region's telecommunications infrastructure falling into Chinese hands.

Telstra, the nation's largest telco, said in a statement on Monday it would contribute $270 million to the deal and hold 100% of the equity in Digicel Pacific.

The terms of the sale were agreed on and would be completed within six months, Telstra chief executive Andrew Penn said.

"Digicel Pacific is a commercially attractive asset and critical to telecommunications in the region," Penn said.

Digicel is owned by Irish businessman Denis O'Brien, is incorporated in Bermuda and is headquartered in Jamaica. It operates in 33 markets around the world.

It is the leading mobile phone carrier in Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Tonga, Nauru, Samoa and Vanuatu. It is the second biggest carrier in Fiji after Vodafone.

Trade and Investment Minister Dan Tehan said in a statement the partnership with Telstra, once a state-owned monopoly, was "consistent with Australia's longstanding commitment to growing quality investment in regional infrastructure."

The deal also reflected Australia's commitment to support the development of secure and reliable infrastructure in the region, which is critical to the region's economic growth and development, Tehan said.

The U.S. and some other governments have sought to minimize involvement of Chinese telecoms equipment makers in upgrades of communications networks, citing security concerns. Added to that, trade and other relations between Australia and China have been strained over a range of issues in the past several years.

Damien Kingsbury, a Deakin University expert on international politics, said Australia regards the South Pacific as its "backyard" and would not have wanted a Chinese company owning Digicel's operations in the region.

"There is a very high level of background concern about China's movement in the Pacific and elsewhere," Kingsbury said. "There is a desire to try to neutralize China's movements into the region."

Nation

Biden, Schumer, Manchin huddle, but still no budget deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pivotal Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin appears to be on board with White House proposals for new taxes on billionaires and certain corporations to help pay for President Joe Biden's scaled-back social services and climate change package.

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It's unclear what level of the new taxes Manchin would support, but he generally backs the White House proposals, according to the person who requested anonymity to discuss Manchin's position. Neither person requesting anonymity was authorized to discuss the negotiations by name.

The White House said the breakfast meeting was a "productive discussion" about the president's agenda. The talks appeared to last for hours, but no decisions were announced. The Democrats "continued to make progress," the White House said in its post-meeting statement.

Caltrans maintenance supervisor Matt Martin walks by a landslide covering Highway 70 in the Dixie Fire zone on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Plumas County, Calif. AP

Drought-stricken California doused by major storm

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A powerful storm barreled toward Southern California after flooding highways, toppling trees and causing mud flows in areas burned bare by recent fires across the northern part of the state.

Drenching showers and strong winds accompanied the weekend's arrival of an atmospheric river—a long and wide plume of moisture pulled in from the Pacific Ocean. The National Weather Service's Sacramento office warned of "potentially historic rain."

Flooding was reported across the San Francisco Bay Area, closing streets in Berkeley, inundating Oakland's Bay Bridge toll plaza and overflowing rivers in Napa and Sonoma counties. Power poles were downed and tens of thousands of people in the North Bay were without electricity.

By Sunday morning, Mount Tamalpais just north of San Francisco had recorded a half foot (15 centimeters) of rainfall during the previous 12 hours, the weather service said.

"Some of our higher elevation locations could see 6, 7, 8 inches of rain before we're all said and done," weather service meteorologist Sean Miller said.

About 150 miles (241 kilometers) to the north, the California Highway Patrol closed a stretch of State Route 70 in Butte and Plumas counties because of multiple landslides within the massive Dixie Fire burn scar.

"We have already had several collisions this morning for vehicles hydroplaning, numerous trees falling, and several roadways that are experiencing flooding," the highway patrol's office in Oroville tweeted on Sunday. "If you can stay home and off the roads today, please do. If you are out on the roads, please use extreme caution."

The same storm system also slammed Oregon and Washington state, causing power outages affecting tens of thousands of people. Two people were killed when a tree fell on a vehicle in the greater Seattle area. Eastside Fire & Rescue responded to the scene of the fatalaties near Preston, Washington, which is about 20 miles east of Seattle.

In California's Colusa and Yolo counties, state highways 16 and 20 were shut for several miles due to mudslides, the state Department of Transportation said.

Florida's top doctor refuses mask, is told to leave meeting

MIAMI (AP)—Florida's top health official was asked to leave a meeting after refusing to wear a mask at the office of a state senator who told him she had a serious medical condition, officials have confirmed.

Florida Senate leader Wilton Simpson, a Republican, sent a memo to senators Saturday regarding the incident at the office of Democratic state Sen. Tina Polsky, asking visitors at the building to be respectful with social interactions. Polsky, who represents parts of Broward and Palm Beach counties, had not yet made public her breast cancer diagnosis.

Polsky told The Associated Press about the tense exchange with state Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo that was first reported by the news site Florida Politics. She said Ladapo and two aides were offered masks and asked to wear them when they arrived for the Wednesday meeting. She did not tell him she had breast cancer, but said she had a serious condition.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says cancer patients are at a higher risk to get severely ill from COVID-19 and may not build the same immunity to vaccines.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas drag race driver slams into spectators, killing 2 kids

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP)—A driver lost control during a Texas drag racing event on an airport runway and slammed into a crowd of spectators, killing two children and injuring eight other people, authorities said. A 6-year-old boy and an 8-year-old boy were killed in the crash Saturday afternoon at an event called "Airport Race Wars 2" at the Kerrville-Kerr County Airport, police said in a news release. The organized event was attended by thousands and involved drivers speeding down a runway as they competed for cash. The driver "lost control and left the runway, crashing into parked vehicles and striking spectators who were observing the races," Kerrville police said.

Michigan vigil prays for missionaries kidnapped in Haiti

HART, Mich. (AP)—More than 100 people gathered Sunday in a small Michigan town to pray for the safe release of a local family among 17 members of a missionary group kidnapped by a gang in Haiti more than a week ago. The vigil in the western Michigan community of Hart took place after a video was released Thursday showing the leader of the 400 Mawozo gang threatening to kill those abducted if his demands are not met. Haitian officials have said the gang is seeking $1 million ransom per person. Those at Sunday's vigil in a town park sang and prayed with pastors from several area churches for the safety of the missionaries.

A Wyoming farewell for Marine killed in Afghanistan bombing

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP)—Dozens of U.S. fellow Marines joined hundreds of Wyoming residents to bid a final farewell at a memorial for Rylee McCollum, one of 13 U.S. servicemen killed in a suicide bombing as they guarded a gate at a chaotic Kabul, Afghanistan airport during the final U.S. evacuation from that country. Many of the Marines were members of the 20-year-old McCollum's unit serving in Afghanistan when he was killed on Aug. 26. McCollum, a Marine lance corporal, grew up, went to school and enlisted for the Corps in the mountain valley area known as Jackson Hole, home to the town of Jackson. He was honored during Saturday's Jackson service attended by more than 400 people. "We knew his potential. I knew he had the mindset," said Staff Sgt. Luis Diaz, who recruited McCollum into the Corps. "I knew he had the spirit to accomplish anything he wanted."

Homeowner charged in slaying of motorist in his driveway

MARTINDALE, Texas (AP)—A Central Texas man has been charged with murder in the driveway shooting of a motorist who had pulled into his driveway. Terry Duane Turner, 65, of Martindale, Texas, turned himself in Friday after an arrest warrant accused him of murdering Adil Dghoughi in the early morning of Oct. 11. Investigators said Turner shot the 31-year-old Moroccan immigrant as the man was backing out of Turner's driveway about 3:40 a.m. After the shooting, Turner told a 911 operator that the motorist had pulled a gun on him. Investigators said they found no firearm in the car. Turner turned himself in the day after a warrant was issued for his arrest and was released on a $150,000 bond. No listed telephone number could be found for Turner, and a Caldwell County jail official said the name of Turner's attorney was unavailable

Asia

South Korea's president vows final push for talks with North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Monday he'll keep striving to promote peace with North Korea through dialogue until the end of his term next May, after Pyongyang raised animosities with a resumptionn of provocative weapons tests.

While launching a spate of newly developed weapons in recent weeks, North Korea has also slammed Washington and Seoul over what it calls hostility toward the North. Its actions indicate North Korea wants its rivals to ease economic sanctions against it and accept it as a legitimate nuclear state, experts say.

In his final policy speech at parliament, President Moon Jae-in said he'll "make efforts to the end to help a new order for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula be established through dialogue and diplomacy."

Moon, a champion of greater reconciliation with North Korea, once shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to help facilitate now-stalled nuclear diplomacy between the two countries. Pyongyang turned a cold shoulder on Moon after its diplomacy with Washington broke down in early 2019 amid bickering over the sanctions.

Moon

Moon praised himself for paving the way for a peace process on the Korean Peninsula by holding three summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and helping arrange the first-ever North Korea-U.S. summit between Kim and then-President Donald Trump in 2018.

But Moon acknowledged his push for peace through dialogue remains "incomplete."

Moon's single five-year term ends next May, and he's barred by law from seeking reelection. The presidential candidate of Moon's ruling liberal party has unveiled a similar North Korea policy as Moon's. Surveys indicate a neck-and-neck race with a potential conservative candidate, who will likely take a harder line on the North.

Moon's appeasement policy on North Korea has been divisive, with his supporters call him a peace-making mediator while his opponents accused him of helping North Korea find ways to weaken international pressure and perfect its weapons systems.

The North Korean weapons systems tested recently are mostly short- and medium-range weapons that place South Korea and Japan within their striking ranges. Last Tuesday, North Korea fired a ballistic missile from a submarine in its most significant weapons test since President Joe Biden took office in January.

6 Rohingya die in Bangladesh clashes

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Two groups of Rohingya refugees clashed Friday in a camp in southern Bangladesh, leaving at least six refugees dead and 10 others injured, police said.

The violence broke out in Cox's Bazar district when one side opened fire, killing four people at the scene, said Shihab Kaiser Khan, commander of the Armed Police Battalion, which oversees the camp's security.

Two others died in a hospital while they were being treated for their injuries, Khan said.

It was not immediately clear why the violence broke out, but local media said the two sides were feuding to establish supremacy in the camp over an illegal drug business. Bangladeshi officials said earlier that some Rohingya groups are involved in serious crimes such as kidnapping and ransom-seeking, and that they use the camps to smuggle drugs from Myanmar, where they lived before arriving in Bangladesh.

Khan said one Rohingya man was detained with weapons but did not provide any further details. He said police were searching the camp for other suspects.

Friday's violence occurred about three weeks after an international representative for the Rohingya refugees was shot to death in the camp in the same sub-district of Ukhiya.

ASIA BRIEFS

Chinese province closes tourist sites following virus cases

BEIJING (AP)—A northwestern Chinese province heavily dependent on tourism closed all tourist sites Monday after finding new COVID-19 cases. Gansu province lies along the ancient Silk Road and is famed for the Dunhuang grottoes filled with Buddhist images and other religious sites. The National Health Commission said 35 new cases of local transmission had been detected over the past 24 hours, four of them in Gansu. Another 19 cases were found in the Inner Mongolia region, with others spread across several provinces and cities. Residents in parts of Inner Mongolia have been ordered to stay indoors.

Explosion at Chinese university laboratory kills 2

BEIJING (AP)—Two people were killed and at least nine others were injured in a laboratory explosion at a university in eastern China, state media said Monday. The blast occurred Sunday afternoon at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Nanjing is a major center of higher education that attracts large numbers of foreign students. Officials were investigating the cause of the explosion at the university's School of Materials Science and Technology, state broadcaster CCTV reported. The identities of the victims have not been released. The school's website says more than 1,000 foreign students have attended courses at the school in engineering, business and the Chinese language.

Taiwan shaken by 6.5-magnitude quake, woman hurt by rockfall

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—An earthquake shook Taiwan's capital, Taipei, on Sunday and caused falling rocks that injured a woman and damaged a car. No deaths were reported. The 6.5-magnitude quake struck at 1:11 p.m. and was centered near Yilan, a city about 35 kilometers (22 miles) east of Taipei near the northeastern coast, according to the Central Weather Bureau. It was followed seconds later by a 5.4-magnitude quake. Buildings in Taipei swayed. The subway and some other mass transit services were suspended. A woman was injured by falling rocks in Taroko National Park in Hualien County, south of Yilan, the Central News Agency reported. It said one car on a highway was damaged also by falling rocks but no one was injured.

World

In this Sept. 21, 2021, file photo, traffic moves on a street in Sudan's capital Khartoum. AP

Officials detained, internet is down in possible Sudan coup

CAIRO (AP)—Military forces detained a number of senior Sudanese government figures on Monday, the country's information ministry said, as the country's main pro-democracy group called on people to take to the streets to counter an apparent military coup.

The ministry said the internet had been cut off and military forces closed bridges. The country's state news channel played patriotic traditional music and scenes of the Nile river. The Umma Party, the country's largest political party, described the arrests as an attempted coup, and called on people to take to the streets in resistance. Earlier, the Sudanese Professionals' Association, a group leading demands for a transition to democracy, issued a similar call.

A possible takeover by the military would be a major setback for Sudan, which has grappled with a transition to democracy since long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir was toppled by mass protests.

Monday's arrests come after weeks of rising tensions between Sudan's civilian and military leaders. A failed coup attempt in September fractured the country along old lines, pitting more-conservative Islamists who want a military government against those who toppled al-Bashir more than two years ago in mass protests. In recent days, both camps have taken to the street in demonstrations.

The information ministry said in a brief statement on its Facebook page that the whereabouts of the officials were not known. It did not provide details about who was detained.

Earlier Monday, two officials confirmed that at least five government figures were detained. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The officials said the detained government members include Industry Minister Ibrahim al-Sheikh, Information Minister Hamza Baloul, and Mohammed al-Fiky Suliman, member of the country's ruling transitional body, known as The Sovereign Council, and Faisal Mohammed Saleh, a media adviser to Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

The whereabouts of Hamdok were not immediately clear, amid media reports that security forces were stationed outside his home in Khartoum.

Under Hamdok and the transitional council, Sudan has slowly emerged from years of international pariah status under al-Bashir. The country was removed from the United States' state supporter of terror list in 2020, opening the door for badly needed international loans and investment. The country's economy has struggled with the shock of a number economic reforms called for by international lending institutions.

Ayman Khalid, governor of the state containing the capital, Khartoum, was also arrested, according to the official Facebook page of his office.

There have been previous military coups in Sudan since it gained its independence from Britain and Egypt in 1956. Al-Bashir came to power in a 1989 military coup that removed the country's last elected government.

The arrests followed meetings the U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Jeffrey Feltman with Sudanese military and civilian leaders Saturday and Sunday in efforts to resolve the dispute. Sudan's state news website highlighted the meetings with military officials.

Haiti capital brought to brink by fuel shortages

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's capital has been brought to the brink of exhaustion by fuel shortages, after staggering along despite an earthquake, the assassination of the president, gang violence and mass kidnappings.

More than two weeks of fuel deliveries interrupted by gang blockades and abductions of fuel truck drivers have driven residents of Port-au-Prince to a desperate search for gasoline and diesel. The fuels are widely used to run generators needed to compensate for the country's unreliable electrical system.

The city's main fuel terminals are located in or near gang-dominated neighborhoods like Martissant, La Saline and Cite Soliel, and some gangs have reportedly been demanding extortion payments to allow fuel trucks through.

The gangs have become a powerful force in Haiti. One of the gangs recently kidnapped 17 members of a U.S.-based missionary group and reportedly demanded a ransom of $1 million each for their release, warning that the hostages will be killed if their demands aren't met. There is no word yet on their fate.

The gangs have also kidnapped hundreds of Haitians, and the government appears unable, or unwilling, to take them on.

Overdrive

2022 Toyota Tundra

is first truly competitive Japanese full-size pickup

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—After 22 years and two generations (not counting the T100, a full-sized truck Toyota produced for eight years before the Tundra), Toyota has finally produced a pickup that can challenge its rivals: the new 2022 Toyota Tundra. It's a wonder that it's taken so long, but execs say it's due to the company's desire to merge three international full-size truck platforms into one, rather than home office hubris.

Yet this time, the task of designing and engineering the 2022 Tundra fell to Americans, not the Japanese. The result? The first Toyota full-size pickup that seriously challenges Detroit's bestsellers, one that's far better than previous models, which called to mind the Texas put-down, "all hat, no cattle." The Tundra is even built in San Antonio, Texas, while its engine is manufactured in Huntsville, Alabama.

It also explains the new Tundra's boldly threatening look, which is far more aggressive than previous models and looks at home alongside its smaller Tacoma sibling. In fact, the Tundra's new design was inspired by the Marvel Comics superhero Iron Man.

"We knew we needed to take a huge step in overall boldness and strength," said Kevin Hunter, president of Calty Design Research, Toyota's North American design studio. "The size really isn't any bigger, but the massing, the sculpture, the three-dimensional aspect of this truck is way beyond where the current truck is."

Offered in SR, SR5, Limited, Platinum, 1794 and TRD Pro models, each 2022 Tundra is decked out with different exterior trim and four doors—smaller rear ones on the Double Cab, with a 6.5-foot or 8.1-foot bed, or full-size ones on the CrewMax, with a 5.5-foot or 6.5-foot bed. The bed is made from sheet-molded compound, and its tailgate can be opened with the truck's key fob. However, it lacks the integrated bed step or in-bed storage bins found in competing pickups, although the truck is now built using a fully boxed ladder frame, with frame crossmembers more than doubled in size for added reinforcement.

Inside, you'll find a very spacious cabin—particularly on CrewMax models, which boast a rear seat with limousine-like legroom. As you progress up the food chain, each iteration gets more and more opulent, although top trim levels seem to overplay the luxury card. This makes the Limited trim level an ideal choice when it comes to ambience. The wide center console has plenty of space for any number of items, but a column-mounted transmission shifter would be appreciated, as the rotary transmission dial takes up space that could be used for other things.

The supportive seats are wide and flat. They face a horizontal instrument panel that makes the already-wide Tundra feel even wider, an impression accentuated by the massive 14-inch touchscreen. Its new infotainment interface, designed in America, boasts a clear, logical design that clashes with the 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster, a muddled mess designed in Japan that's confusing to read quickly. Better to stick with the standard conventional instrument cluster and its more useful 4.2-inch digital readout.

But other technology is vastly improved. There's standard wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, as well as Toyota Connected Services with voice commands. In addition, cameras around the truck keep an eye on your trailer, with an option that assists when backing up.

Powering all of this is a twin-turbocharged and intercooled double-overhead-cam V-6 rated at 389 horsepower and 479 pound-feet of torque, with peak torque kicking in at 2,400 rpm. Dubbed the "I-Force," it's also available as the "I-Force Max," the same engine with a 48-horsepower electric motor placed between the engine and transmission and powered by a nickel-metal hydride battery pack located beneath the rear seats. (That space is under-seat storage in non-hybrid models.) Both drivelines hitch to a 10-speed automatic transmission, providing a maximum payload of 1,940 pounds and maximum towing of 12,000 pounds.

Regardless of driveline, you'll find the Tundra delivers the required grunt, with a remarkably smooth ride and blessedly quiet cabin. It drives smaller than its size suggests, with the hood's shape making it easy to place the front end. The Tundra employs a double wishbone front suspension and multi-link coil spring rear suspension with twin-tube shocks at each corner. They make a noticeable difference, particularly off-road, where they add considerable civility when diving into deep moguls, traversing streams, climbing over logs or powering over gravel. That's especially true of the off-road worthy TRD Pro, with 2.5-inch diameter FOX internal bypass shocks that reduce the extreme pitching that can occur when treading through the forest primeval. Of course, the electronic locking rear differential, Multi-Terrain Select and Crawl Control also played a role.

While there's nothing here that's revolutionary, or even surprising, the new 2022 Toyota Tundra delivers a truly competitive alternative to pickups produced by GM, Ford, Stellantis and Nissan. These Tundras offer the brawn most buyers need in a truck that won't resemble the one in their neighbor's driveway.

NUTS AND BOLTS

2022 Toyota Tundra

- **Base price:** Not announced
- **Engine:** 3.5-liter twin-turbocharged and intercooled DOHC V6
- **Horsepower/Torque:** 389/437; 479/583 with hybrid assist
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** Pending certification
- **Fuel required:** 87 Octane
- **Length/Width/Height:** 233.6-252.5/80.2/78 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 9.3-11.2 inches
- **Payload:** 1,510-1,940 pounds
- **Towing capacity:** 11,300-12,000 pounds

Improvements in the 2022 Toyota Tundra include a new high-strength boxed, steel-ladder frame; aluminum reinforced composite bed; and a redesigned multi-link rear suspension, the car manufacturer said.

TOYOTA/TNS

OK to mix and match?

Q A blinking check engine light came on setting a number four cylinder misfire code. I suspected a bad ignition coil, which I replaced. I cleared codes and the car runs great. I was able to find an auto parts store open late and fortunately the coil was in front of the engine not in back. A back coil will probably fail in dead of winter and 20-below temperature. I would like to replace the back coils and I can get a better brand coil at less cost. Is it OK to mix coils from different manufacturers?

A Yes. Every manufacturer must build their parts to the original equipment specifications. That said, I prefer to stick with parts from the same company.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q My normal gasoline station (a Sam's Club) has traffic flow in one direction only at its pump islands. I've noticed that there is always a line with multiple cars for vehicles with gas caps on the left side, but rarely any line for vehicles with gas caps on the right side. Just a rough guess but I would say that about 80% of the vehicles on the road have gas caps on the left side. Right vs. left side: How is this choice made during the design process? Is there a statistic for the percentage of vehicles on the road with gas caps on the left vs., right?

A It seems that that there are statistics for everything, although baseball seems to have the most. If there are gas cap stats, I could not find any. My hunch is that design engineers look for the most convenient location with the shortest distance from the tank to the inlet, which is usually denoted on the instrument panel with an arrow beside the gasoline icon.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q I purchased a new 2021 Tucson this spring. My first new car in 17 years! I love it but have a question. We went to two dealerships and both salespeople said the oil change should be every 3,750 miles. I have taken my car in twice now, at 3,750 and 7,500. The service department is telling me I only need to come in every 8,000 miles. I have followed the 3,000 miles/3-month oil change guideline and tire rotation every six months for over 40 years. I don't want to void my new car warranty. Who do I believe?

A Have faith in your owner's manual, it is the car's bible. Reading the maintenance section, you will find the service interval blessed by the carmaker. Thou shalt change the oil and filter once a year or every 7,500 miles. It seems like a sin to waste money on unnecessarily frequent oil changes.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q You recently wrote that using the cruise control provides better gas mileage. We have a 2018 RAV 4 and have driven from our previous residence in Virginia to Illinois several times. On one such trip I used the cruise control whenever possible, and on another identical trip I used the pedal only, which yielded an extra 2 mpg over cruise. I suspect the cause is the additional braking for slower vehicles and unnecessary shifting on inclines.

A Not everyone can finesse the throttle like you. When you lift your foot to brake, you close the throttle. Coasting to a stop helps, so does gently accelerating from a stop instead of returning to 55 mph as quickly as possible.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Crew member who gave Baldwin gun subject of prior complaint

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A crew member says she has raised safety concerns in the past about the assistant director who authorities say unwittingly handed actor Alec Baldwin the prop gun that killed a cinematographer on a film set.

Maggie Goll, a prop maker and licensed pyrotechnician, said in a statement that she filed an internal complaint with the executive producers of Hulu's "Into the Dark" series in 2019 over concerns about assistant director Dave Halls' behavior on set. Goll said in a phone interview Sunday that Halls disregarded safety protocols for weapons and pyrotechnics and tried to continue filming after the supervising pyrotechnician lost consciousness on set.

Halls has not returned phone calls and email messages seeking comment.

This week's fatal shooting and some of her previous experiences point to larger safety issues that need to be addressed, Goll said, adding that crew member safety and well-being are top issues in ongoing contract negotiations between a union that represents film and TV workers and a major producers' group.

"This situation is not about Dave Halls. ... It's in no way one person's fault," she said. "It's a bigger conversation about safety on set and what we are trying to achieve with that culture."

Baldwin fired a prop gun on the New Mexico set of the film "Rust" Thursday, killing 42-year-old Halyna Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza, who was standing behind her.

The gun Baldwin used was one of three that a firearms specialist, or "armorer," had set on a cart outside the building where a scene was being rehearsed, according to court records. Halls grabbed a gun off a cart and handed it to Baldwin, indicating that the weapon was safe by yelling "cold gun," court papers say. But it was loaded with live rounds, according to the records.

Baldwin, 63, who is known for his roles in "30 Rock" and "The Hunt for Red October" and his impression of former President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," has described the killing as a "tragic accident."

Goll said it should not have happened because there are "so many steps that you have to go through ... that the possibility of it even getting there should be impossible."

Actor Ray Liotta agreed that the checks on firearms are usually extensive.

James Michael Tyler, who played Gunther on 'Friends,' dies

Tyler

NEW YORK (AP)—James Michael Tyler, the actor known widely for his recurring role as Gunther on "Friends," has died. He was 59.

Tyler died Sunday at home in Los Angeles from prostate cancer, said his manager, Toni Benson. Tyler was first diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2018.

"The world knew him as Gunther (the seventh 'Friend'), from the hit series 'Friends,' but Michael's loved ones knew him as an actor, musician, cancer-awareness advocate, and loving husband," Benson wrote in a tribute. "Michael loved live music, cheering on his Clemson Tigers, and would often find himself in fun and unplanned adventures."

Tyler had appeared briefly in 1990s series like "Just Shoot Me!" and "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" before being cast as a background character in the second episodes of "Friends" in 1994. Over the show's multi-year-run, he became the most frequently recurring guest star on the series playing Gunther, the Central Perk barista with an unrequited affection for Rachel (Jennifer Aniston).

Tyler was initially cast while working as a barista at the Bourgeois Pig coffee shop in Los Angeles. He didn't have a line of dialogue on "Friends" until he had made 33 appearances on the show, according to the 2019 book, "Generation Friends: An Inside Look at the Show That Defined a Television Era," by Saul Austerlitz. Over the 236 episodes, Tyler appeared in 150 of them.

Despite hybrid release, 'Dune' draws well on the big screen

(WARNER BROS. PICTURES VIA AP)
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Timothee Chalamet, left, and Charlotte Rampling in a scene from "Dune."

NEW YORK (AP)—Denis Villeneuve's "Dune" debuted with $40.1 million in ticket sales in its opening weekend in North America, drawing a large number of moviegoers to see the thundering sci-fi epic on the big screen despite it also being available to stream in homes.

Warner Bros. launched the Legendary Entertainment production simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max. When the studio first charted that course for all its 2021 releases due to the pandemic, how the strategy would affect "Dune"—one of the year's most anticipated spectacles—was always one of the biggest question marks. Villeneuve vehemently protested the decision.

"I strongly believe the future of cinema will be on the big screen, no matter what any Wall Street dilettante says," Villeneuve wrote in a lengthy statement to Variety last December.

Warner Bros. has continued to maintain it will return to exclusive theatrical releases next year. For now, the $165 million-budgeted "Dune" marks the best domestic opening for any of the studio's hybrid releases, surpassing the $31.7 debut of "Godzilla vs. Kong" in March. Expectations had hovered closer to $30-35 million for "Dune."

"This was a tremendous result as we're ramping out of the pandemic," said Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. "Once we get out of the pandemic, if we have a movie like this, clearly you'd want to go into theaters first. There's no question of that."

Goldstein estimated the film would have debuted with approximately 20% more in box office had it not also been streaming simultaneously. (The studio didn't release streaming figures.) Coming into the weekend, "Dune," which first premiered at the Venice Film Festival in early September, had already grossed $130 million internationally. This weekend, it debuted with $21.6 million in China, where Legendary and Wanda handled distribution. Altogether, "Dune" added $47.4 million internationally for a global cumulative gross of $220.7 million.

Ed Sheeran has COVID, will do performances from home

British pop star Ed Sheeran said Sunday he has tested positive for COVID-19 and will do interviews and performances from his house while he self-isolates.

Sheeran, 30, broke the news on social media days before his new studio album is due out.

"Quick note to tell you that I've sadly tested positive for Covid, so I'm now self-isolating and following government guidelines," Sheeran wrote on Instagram. "It means that I'm now unable to plough ahead with any in person commitments for now, so I'll be doing as many of my planned interviews/performances I can from my house. Apologies to anyone I've let down."

Sheeran had just been announced as the musical guest on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" on Nov. 6.

Representatives did not immediately say which performances he is canceling and which he will carry out from home.

Sheeran's official website lists no performances before April. The four-time Grammy winner's new studio album is called "=," which is pronounced "Equals." ***(AP)***

Child of recovering addict still harbors raw resentment

DEAR ABBY: I'm the mother of a 36-year-old daughter. She claims I treat her younger brothers better than I treat her. I am a recovering addict—clean for 20-plus years. I was in active addiction for nine years when she was a teenager, and she has never let that go. She constantly tells me how "unfair" I am, that I never make time for her and that I don't validate her feelings.

I have apologized many times and tried to show her I don't treat her siblings differently. I schedule "us" time, but this is an ongoing battle, and I'm at a loss about how to fix it. How do I show her there's no difference in the way I treat any of them? How do I reassure her that her feelings are validated? This has caused me many tearful nights.

WANTING SERENITY BACK

DEAR WANTING: Your daughter's sense of deprivation has probably caused her many tearful nights as well. Your years of active addiction kept her from having the mother she needed as a teen. I'm sorry to say that it may have created an emptiness in her you may not be able to fill. You can't "fix" her anger and feelings of deprivation, but that doesn't mean SHE can't do it herself. It may involve her joining a 12-step program, or seeking emotional counseling—if she's willing—but until she finds a way to stop trying to punish you, she will remain stuck in her anger and jealousy.

DEAR ABBY: How do I tell my sister I no longer wish to be included in family gatherings (birthdays, holidays, etc.)? What happened on my brother's birthday was the last straw.

I have since distanced myself for several reasons. 1) I won't waste my breath trying to explain to my parents; they won't believe a word I say. Also, my parents are the most judgmental people I know. 2) I have no tolerance for other people's jealousy or envy because I don't envy or get jealous. 3) I don't want to be surrounded by negative energy and emotional pain.

My sister is trying to get the family together again in spite of everything. I need her to respect my boundaries and my decision to stay away. I don't want to have to discuss this when I have a conversation with her. I no longer wish to attend gatherings because they always end up in disruption of some kind, and then I have to take that energy home with me. Please help.

SEEKING PEACE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SEEKING PEACE: Your sister is not a mind reader. Because you don't want her to "bring this up" when she has a conversation with you, take the bull by the horns, explain that you won't be attending family get-togethers and state your reasons. And when you do, tell her your mind is made up and you do not want to discuss it further. Good luck.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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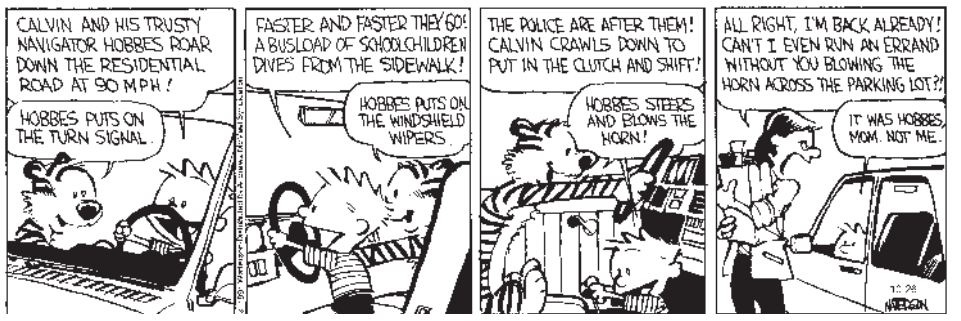
Pastimes

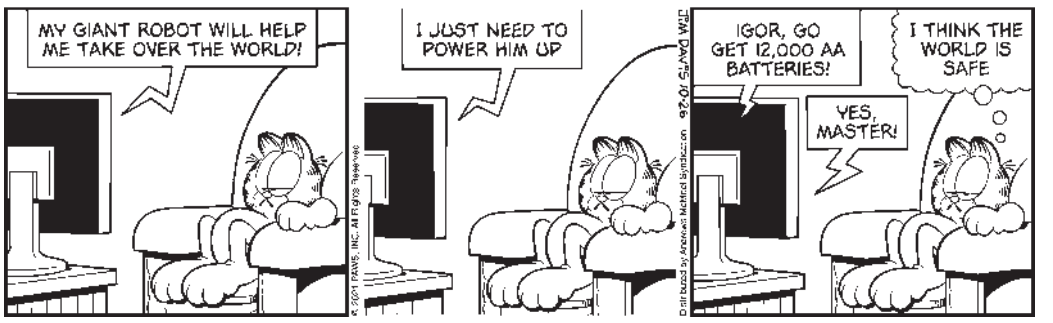
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN AND HIS TRUSTY NAVIGATOR HOBBES ROAR DOWN THE RESIDENTIAL ROAD AT 90 MPH!
HOBBES PUTS ON THE TURN SIGNAL.
FASTER AND FASTER THEY GO! A BUSLOAD OF SCHOOLCHILDREN DIVES FROM THE SIDEWALK!
HOBBES PUTS ON THE WINDSHIELD WIPERS.
THE POLICE ARE AFTER THEM! CALVIN CRAWLS DOWN TO PUT IN THE CLUTCH AND SHIFT!
HOBBES STEERS AND BLOWS THE HORN!
ALL RIGHT, I'M BACK ALREADY! CAN'T I EVEN RUN AN ERRAND WITHOUT YOU BLOWING THE HORN ACROSS THE PARKING LOT?!
IT WAS HOBBES, MOM. NOT ME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


MY GIANT ROBOT WILL HELP ME TAKE OVER THE WORLD!
I JUST NEED TO POWER HIM UP
IGOR, GO GET 12,000 AA BATTERIES!
YES, MASTER!
I THINK THE WORLD IS SAFE

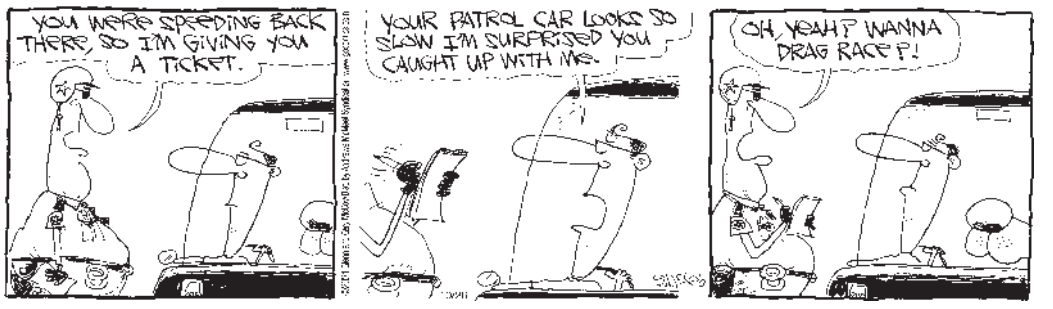
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU SCARED KATY?
I DID. PRETTY BAD, TOO.
I'M WORRIED.
SHE'S BEEN IN HER ROOM EVER SINCE. SHE'S GONE QUIET.
OOH. THE QUIET IS THE WORST.
IS THERE A CIRCUS NEARBY I COULD RUN AWAY TO?
10-26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU WERE SPEEDING BACK THERE, SO I'M GIVING YOU A TICKET.
YOUR PATROL CAR LOOKS SO SLOW I'M SURPRISED YOU CAUGHT UP WITH ME.
OH, YEAH? WANNA DRAG RACE?!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Give up
5 "— voyage!"
8 Strike callers
12 Hurler Hershiser
13 "King Kong" studio
14 Ham's dad
15 Fearless
17 Novelist Rice
18 Corral
19 St. crosser
20 Elegance
21 E.T.'s craft
22 Squealer
23 Ridicule
26 Breakfast choices
30 "Frozen" snow queen
31 Romance
32 Harvest
33 Took wee bites
35 Rife with bacteria
36 Succor
37 Writer's block?
38 Like fresh apples
41 Army address
42 Year in Spain
45 Opulent
46 At full force
48 Skin soother
49 Early riser?
50 Scottish hillside
51 Repair
52 Past
53 Chumps

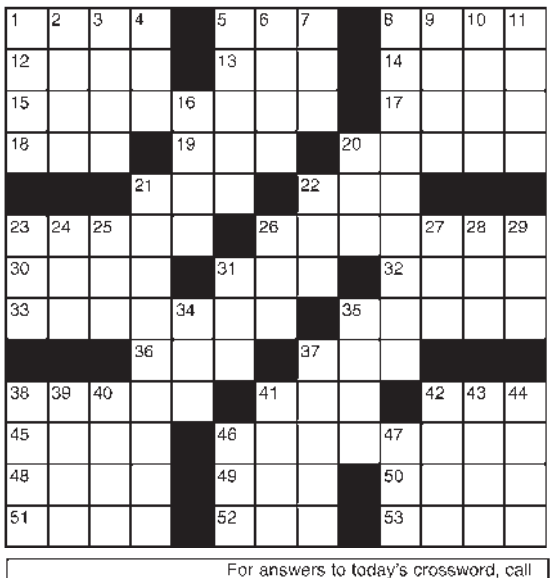
DOWN

1 Brilliant stroke
2 Coastal eagle
3 Campus bigwig
4 Sprite
5 "Well done!"
6 Tom Joad, for one
7 Doze (off)
8 As is
9 "— Lisa"
10 Frying needs
11 "— a Lady"
16 Finn's floater
20 Automobile
21 Brazen
22 Classic Olds
23 Toe count
24 Actress MacGraw
25 PC port
26 Atlantic fish
27 — Lingus
28 Felon's flight
29 CIA operative
31 Marry
34 Sass
35 Attire
37 Steinway product
38 Stuff tightly
39 Anger
40 PC picture
41 Tight-fitting
42 Gillette razor
43 Tide variety
44 Poetic tributes
46 "Suits" network
47 Sit-up targets

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	P			B	A	G		F	A	M	E
B	O	R	G		T	R	U		I	B	I	S
U	B	E	P		S	E	A		R	S	V	P
T	A	S	E	S		A	V	I	S			
			A	O	K		A	N	T	H	E	M
B	O	O	T	L	E	G		C	A	I	R	O
U	R	G	E		Y	A	M		I	L	L	S
T	F	R	S	F		M	F	D	D	I	F	S
T	S	E	T	S	E		W	O	K			
			H	E	L	P		G	I	D	D	Y
S	A	R	I		R	E	M		T	A	R	A
P	L	O	T		O	R	G		S	L	A	P
Y	E	W	S		Y	U	M		I	M	S	

Yesterday's answer 10-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Seth MacFarlane, 48; Cary Elwes, 59; James Pickens Jr., 67; Pat Sajak, 75.

Happy Birthday: Learn as you go, and embrace the changes that come your way. Maintain balance, be moderate and do your best to simplify your life. Peace of mind is attainable if you let your intuition lead the way. A broad view of what's happening around you will allow you to recognize what's best for you and how to go about reaching your goal. Your numbers are 7, 15, 22, 27, 31, 38, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Live up to your promises, and finish what you start. Initiate personal changes that will make you feel good, fit and ready to conquer the world. Put your energy where it counts, and don't let your emotions spin out of control. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let change stifle you. Go about your business, and do what makes you happy. If you overreact or stop because someone chooses to head in a different direction, you will miss out on something or someone who can help you advance. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider your attributes, skills and what you enjoy doing most, then follow the thread that will take you in that direction. Earning your cash doing something you want will add value to your life. Self-improvement will lead to better relationships with others. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotions will step in and take over if you let the little things get to you. Stick close to home and to those you love. Don't get involved in a debate that can lead to an argument or a no-win situation. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If you don't like something, speak up. Offer an alternative that helps you change the situation's outcome, and put in the physical effort to ensure things unfold your way. Romance will enhance a meaningful relationship. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Reach out to people who make you smile. Getting together with someone who motivates you will result in an unexpected offer that encourages you to use your skills differently. Safe networking and socializing are in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn from your mistakes, and you'll avoid an emotional situation. Put your time and energy into home improvements that will encourage better cash flow and fewer objections to necessary rules. Balance and equality will improve your relationship with friends and family. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pick up the pace, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Take a different path, and you'll learn something new. Kindness will lead to a benevolent response from someone in a position to help. Embrace an unexpected change. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your emotions undercover when dealing with a professional situation. Let others do the talking while you summarize and organize your thoughts. Once you have a clear picture, you will make better decisions. Self-improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do something that sparks your imagination. A creative endeavor, a lifestyle change or associating with people who enjoy the same pastimes as you will help build enthusiasm, confidence and friendships. Choose patience over frustration when faced with opposition or incompetence. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A change someone makes may not be welcome, but if you choose to carry on and do what makes you happy, you will come out ahead. Pay attention to joint ventures, shared expenses and replacing outdated methods with new technology. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a break and do something that will lift your spirits. Reach out to someone who puts a smile on your face. A festive event that offers insight into using your skills diversely will push you to make a positive change. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, outgoing and helpful. You are impulsive and playful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			4		6		
3			5		7			2
		5				3		
	4		3		6		5	
6								8
	1		2		8		3	
		7				4		
1			8		2			9
	6			9		1		

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	8	6	5	9	4	1	2
4	5	1	2	3	8	6	7	9
9	6	2	1	4	7	8	5	3
6	8	7	3	9	5	1	2	4
2	4	9	7	1	6	5	3	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	9	6	7
5	9	6	4	7	3	2	8	1
7	2	4	5	8	1	3	9	6
8	1	3	9	6	2	7	4	5

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TEMPEH Solution: 9 letters

P	F	P	H	O	S	P	H	O	R	U	S	O	A	K
H	R	E	D	E	D	A	E	R	B	E	I	G	E	A
B	C	O	R	E	C	S	O	U	P	V	K	O	V	O
R	E	I	B	M	Y	T	R	A	E	H	C	A	R	I
A	U	U	W	I	E	A	E	G	S	H	J	G	C	K
I	C	I	N	D	O	N	E	S	I	A	A	N	S	A
S	E	E	D	S	N	T	T	L	U	N	U	T	T	Y
I	B	S	L	O	A	A	I	E	I	F	I	T	N	I
N	R	N	C	B	S	P	S	C	D	R	N	O	E	R
G	A	A	L	O	M	E	L	E	T	M	R	I	F	E
L	B	E	R	V	O	U	E	A	A	I	K	G	D	T
U	S	B	E	D	K	F	R	I	N	M	O	R	E	A
T	E	G	B	N	Y	O	S	C	G	T	O	A	I	C
E	A	V	I	T	A	M	I	N	S	E	C	I	R	O
N	T	I	F	E	N	E	B	A	K	E	T	N	F	S

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Bacon, Bake, Barbecue, Beans, Beige, Benefit, Braising, Breaded, Cake, Chili, Cook, Crumble, Cubed, Feed, Fermented, Fiber, Firm, Fried, Gluten, Grain, Hearty, Indonesia, Infuse, Iron, Java, Nutty, Omelet, Organic, Pasta, Phosphorus, Plant, Probiotic, Rice, Sandwich, Sauté, Seeds, Smoky, Soak, Soup, Soy, Stir, Tacos, Tang, Teriyaki, Vegan, Vegetables, Vitamins

Yesterday's Answer: Hydrocarbons

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Lakers overcome Morant's 40-points, beat Grizzlies, 121-118

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points, Anthony Davis had 22 points and four blocks, and LeBron James scored 19 as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame Ja Morant's 40-point game and beat the Memphis Grizzlies 121-118 Sunday night for their first win of the season.

There was plenty of drama in the final minute as Morant was fouled on a 3-point attempt by Kent Bazemore with 2.5 seconds left and Memphis trailing by three. Morant had a chance to tie the game, but missed the third and final free throw and the Lakers escaped with the win.

Anthony moved into ninth on the NBA's all-time scoring list with 27,423 career points.

The Lakers snapped a season-opening two-game losing streak. The Grizzlies lost for the first time after consecutive wins to open the season.

Morant shot 13 of 21 from the field and made a career-best five 3-pointers. He added 10 assists. By halftime, Morant had 17 points, including four 3-pointers.

Davis blocked a Morant layup attempt with 50 seconds left and that appeared to seal it for the Lakers. The teams exchanged free three throws, then Bazemore fouled Morant. But the Grizzlies failed to complete the comeback.

The Lakers played for the first time since Davis and Dwight Howard had a physical confrontation on the bench during the game against Phoenix. The pair proclaimed that disagreement was over by halftime.

In a scary moment for the Lakers, James fell to the court and held his right leg in some pain in the third quarter after Desmond Bane fell into his leg. James was looked at by trainers and was down for a brief time. He re-tied his shoes, popped back up, jumped up and down a few times and stayed in the game. About a minute later, he had a big block.

The Grizzlies led by as many as 10 points in the first quarter. The Lakers were dominating inside and used their height advantage to take a 62-56 halftime lead.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forwards Carmelo Anthony, right, is greeted by Anthony Davis (3) after Anthony scoring a three-point basket against the Memphis Grizzlies during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021.

Hornets 111, Nets 95

In New York, Miles Bridges had 32 points and nine rebounds, Ish Smith added 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and Charlotte beat Brooklyn to improve to 3-0 for the first time.

LaMelo Ball had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Hornets, but it was their backups who led them in a dominant final quarter. Cody Martin had eight of his 12 in the final 12 minutes.

Before that, it was another night for Bridges, who had his second 30-point outing in the first three games and finished a point shy of his career high.

Kevin Durant scored 38 points for the Nets, who fell to 1-2. James Harden had 15 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for Brooklyn.

It was a disappointing home opener that featured demonstrators outside the arena supporting Nets guard Kyrie Irving and protesting New York's vaccine mandate.

The Nets are not allowing Irving to play while he is not vaccinated against COVID-19, which the city's mandate says pro athletes playing for a local team must do.

Warriors 119, Kings 107

In Sacramento, Calif., Stephen Curry scored 27 points and became the first player in Warriors franchise history to reach 5,000 assists, helping Golden State beat Sacramento to improve to 3-0.

Curry had 10 assists and seven rebounds. Jordan Poole added 22 points, and Draymond Green had 14 points, six rebounds and seven assists.

Harrison Barnes scored 24 points for the Kings, and Richaun Holmes had 16 points and 11 rebounds. They are 1-2.

76ers 115, Thunder 103

In Oklahoma City, Seth Curry scored 28 points to help Philadelphia beat Oklahoma City.

Joel Embiid added 22 points and nine rebounds for Philadelphia. The 76ers are off to a 2-1 start as they work through issues with Ben Simmons, the point guard the team listed as out because of personal reasons.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 29 points, and rookie Josh Giddey had 19 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals for the Thunder. They are 0-3.

Curry scored 23 points in the first quarter and made 6 of 7 3-pointers to help the 76ers take a 36-26 lead.

Celtics 107, Rockets 97

In Houston, Jayson Tatum had 31 points and nine rebounds and Boston beat Houston to avoid its first 0-3 start since 2013.

Tatum, had 20 points in the first half on 8-of-13 shooting. Al Horford added 17 points, including 11 in the third quarter, and 10 rebounds. Dennis Schröder, who started for the injured Jaylen Brown, finished with 18 points, and Grant Williams added 18 points.

Second overall pick Jalen Green had 30 points, making 8 of 10 on 3-pointers, for Houston. Christian Wood had 20 points and nine rebounds.

Magic 110, Knicks 104

In New York, Cole Anthony had 29 points and a career-high 16 rebounds and Terrence Ross scored all 22 of his points in the fourth quarter in Orlando's victory over New York.

Jalen Suggs and Wendell Carter Jr. added 11 points apiece to Orlando help Orlando end a season-opening, two-game losing streak.

Julius Randle had 30 points and 16 rebounds for New York. The Knicks lost for the first time in three games this season.

After Kanter's Tibet comments, Celtics blacked out in China

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Chinese broadcaster and NBA partner Tencent is not showing current or archived Boston Celtics games on its platforms, in apparent response to comments that Celtics center Enes Kanter made to advocate Tibetan independence.

Kanter, as part of a series of social media posts, also called Chinese President Xi Jinping a "dictator." Kanter did not play in Boston's season-opening 138-134 loss to New York on Wednesday night. The game that was not shown on the streaming services that typically broadcast most NBA games to millions in China.

The NBA had no immediate comment and the Celtics were not practicing Thursday. It was also not immediately clear how long Tencent's plans to not air the Celtics would last.

Kanter was wearing shoes emblazoned with the words "Free Tibet" during Wednesday night's game. "More than 150 Tibetan people have burned themselves alive!! — hoping that such an act would raise more awareness about Tibet. I stand with my Tibetan brothers and sisters, and I support their calls for Freedom," he wrote on Twitter.

The league and China have had a damaged relationship since October 2019, when then-Houston general manager Daryl Morey tweeted in support of government protesters in Hong Kong and sparked what essentially became a blackout for the league in the world's most populous nation.

NBA games were eventually returned to Tencent's lineup but not state television provider CCTV, except for two games during the 2020 NBA Finals. Tencent did not offer Philadelphia's games last season, Morey's first with the 76ers.

"The player you mentioned was clout-chasing, trying to get attention with Tibet-related issues," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Thursday when asked about Kanter's posts. "His wrong remarks are not worth refuting."

China's Communist leaders are extremely sensitive to anything they view as outside interference in domestic political affairs. After Morey's tweet, the fallout was immense and sponsors — following CCTV's lead — pulled their backing of the NBA China Games days later between the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets. The NBA estimated that the strained relationship with the Chinese and lost broadcast rights meant the league missed out on about $400 million in revenue during the 2019-20 season alone.

"It's unclear whether we'll be back on CCTV television in China this year," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said earlier this week.

For now, the fallout from Kanter's comments does not appear to be as severe as the immediate response to Morey's tweet, which was quickly deleted. Other NBA games played Wednesday were offered on Tencent, and the three games on Thursday's schedule appeared on the provider's listings.

Kanter is from Turkey and has long been an outspoken critic of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Turkish government. Kanter has said his passport was revoked by the Turkish government in 2017.

It's not just the NBA that is finding itself dealing with difficult issues when it comes to relationships with China. A number of groups have called for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and others, to boycott this winter's Beijing Games in support of human-rights issues.

The USOPC plans to send full teams to China for the February Olympics.

"We expect that China is going to be a unique situation to really allow sport to speak for unity and for global peace and for the rights of people around the world," said Susanne Lyons, who chairs the USOPC board of directors. "That really is the place where sport can make its stand."

Burrow, Bengals rout Ravens 41-17 for AFC North lead

BALTIMORE (AP)—Joe Burrow threw for a career-high 416 yards and three touchdowns, including a pivotal 82-yarder to rookie Ja'Marr Chase in the third quarter, and the Cincinnati Bengals won their AFC North showdown against the Baltimore Ravens in style, pulling away in the second half for a 41-17 victory Sunday.

The Bengals (5-2) drew even with the Ravens (5-2) atop the division, a sign that Burrow and Chase might be ahead of schedule in turning around this struggling franchise. The former LSU teammates were too much for Baltimore to handle, and Cincinnati's offense moved the ball pretty easily from the middle of the second quarter on.

Chase had eight catches for 201 yards, easily the most productive performance of his impressive debut season. He broke Speedy Thomas' franchise rookie record of 177 yards receiving, set in a 1969 game at Denver.

Lamar Jackson threw for 257 yards and ran for 88, but he was sacked five times as the Ravens had their five-game winning streak snapped. Jackson found Marquise Brown for a 39-yard touchdown in the third quarter that put Baltimore up 17-13, but the Ravens' only lead of the game was brief.

Burrow needed only four plays to put Cincinnati back in front on a 32-yard strike to C.J. Uzomah. After a Baltimore punt, he connected with Chase on his long TD to make it a 10-point lead. Chase came into the week with a league-best five catches of 40 yards or longer. On this one, he spun past a couple potential tacklers in the middle of the field, and then nobody was going to catch him.

The Bengals snapped a five-game losing streak against the Ravens. Baltimore's three most recent wins in the series were by a combined score of 114-19.

The Ravens have started a season 5-1 four times, but never 6-1.

AP

Baltimore Ravens safety Chuck Clark (36) and cornerback Marlon Humphrey (44) miss a tackle of Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (1) before he took off for a long touchdown on a reception during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Baltimore.

Titans 27, Chiefs 3

In Nashville, Tenn., Ryan Tannehill threw for 270 yards and a touchdown, and he also ran for a score in the second victory in six days for the Titans (5-2) over teams that played for the AFC championship in January.

They edged Buffalo 34-31 on Monday night and followed that by simply dominating the two-time defending AFC champs as they jumped to a 27-0 halftime lead.

The Chiefs (3-4) have lost two of three and dropped to 1-4 in the AFC this season. They also were held to their fewest points since a 38-3 loss to Denver on Dec. 30, 2012.

This was the first time Patrick Mahomes had trailed by 27 at halftime and the third-largest halftime deficit for the Chiefs since 1991. It was the worst since the Chiefs trailed Pittsburgh 29-0 at the half on Oct. 2, 2016, and only the eighth time in franchise history that Kansas City had trailed by 27 or more at the half.

Cardinals 31, Texans 5

In Glendale, Ariz., DeAndre Hopkins caught a touchdown pass against his former team, Zach Ertz caught a touchdown pass for his new team and the Cardinals scored 31 unanswered points.

The Cardinals remained the NFL's only undefeated team and improved to 7-0 for the first time since 1974. The Texans (1-6) — who looked totally overmatched for three quarters — have lost six straight games.

Arizona fell into an early 5-0 hole after a slow offensive start, but recovered to win easily. The Cardinals were a 20 1-2-point favorite, according to FanDuel, a massive spread for an NFL game.

Kyler Murray completed 20 of 28 passes for 261 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. The interception was his first since Week 3, but it was one of the rare bad moments in another solid day. James Conner added an 18-yard touchdown run and Ertz had a 47-yard touchdown reception, which was the longest of his career.

Rams 28, Lions 19

In Inglewood, Calif., Matthew Stafford passed for 334 yards and three touchdowns against his former team, and Jalen Ramsey made an end zone interception with five minutes left.

Jared Goff passed for 268 yards and nearly led the Lions (0-7) to an upset win in his first meeting with the Rams (6-1), who traded him for Stafford in a blockbuster deal last winter.

The Rams led 25-19 when Goff drove the Lions to the Los Angeles 12 in the waning minutes while converting four third downs on an excellent drive. But Ramsey came up with his latest game-changing play on his 27th birthday when he picked off an errant throw by Goff, who was being hit by the Rams' other 2020 All-Pro, Aaron Donald.

Cooper Kupp had 10 catches for 156 yards and two touchdowns for the Rams, including the go-ahead score. Van Jefferson also caught a scoring pass from Stafford, who has 19 TD throws in his first seven games on the West Coast.

Raiders 33, Eagles 22

In Las Vegas, Derek Carr threw for 323 yards, completing 31 of 34 pass attempts with one touchdown. The Raiders (5-2) outgained Philadelphia 443-358 in a dominating performance that saw Las Vegas score on five straight possessions after its first series ended with Carr being intercepted inside the Eagles 5-yard line.

It was Las Vegas' second straight win since former coach Jon Gruden resigned Oct. 11 because of offensive emails he sent before being hired in 2018.

Under interim coach Rich Bisaccia, the Raiders have outscored Denver and Philadelphia 67-46 collectively, and outgained both 869-779.

The Eagles (2-5) lost their second straight and for the fifth time in six games.

The Raiders were without Carr's top target, tight end Darren Waller, who was inactive. Las Vegas lost running back Josh Jacobs to a chest injury after he ran for 29 yards on six attempts, including one touchdown.

Buccaneers 38, Bears 3

In Tampa, Fla., Tom Brady became the first player to throw 600 career touchdown passes, and the Buccaneers have the best seven-game start in franchise history.

The defending Super Bowl champions won their fourth straight game, improving to 6-1 and avenging one of their five regular-season losses from a year ago, with Brady completing 20 of 36 passes for 211 yards and four TDs.

The Tampa Bay defense did its job, too, limiting the offensively challenged Bears (3-4) to Cairo Santos' second-quarter field goal and sacking rookie Justin Fields four times, forcing two fumbles. Dee Delaney had one of the Bucs' three interceptions, a first-quarter pick that led to Brady's 599th career TD pass.

With Antonio Brown and Rob Gronkowski sidelined by injuries, Mike Evans had a big day receiving for the Bucs, finishing with six catches for 76 yards and three TDs, including a 9-yarder that gave Brady No. 600 with 6 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Evans also had scoring receptions of 2 and 8 yards as the Bucs built the lead to 35-3 at halftime. Chris Godwin had eight catches for 111 yards and a 5-yard reception set up by Delaney's interception.

Packers 24, Washington 10

In Green Bay, Wis., Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes and Green Bay earned a sixth consecutive victory.

Washington outgained Green Bay 430-304 but had had five scoreless trips inside the Packers 30-yard line, including back-to-back series that ended inside the 5. Before Sunday, Packers opponents had scored touchdowns every time they reached the red zone.

The Packers (6-1) haven't lost since falling 38-3 to New Orleans on the season's opening Sunday. Green Bay now enters the toughest stretch of its schedule with games at Arizona on Thursday night and at Kansas City on Nov. 7.

Washington (2-5) has lost three straight.

Rodgers went 27 of 35 for 274 yards with touchdown passes to Davante Adams, Allen Lazard and Robert Tonyan.

Patriots 54, Jets 13

In Foxborough, Mass., Mac Jones threw two touchdown passes in his first 300-yard game, Damien Harris and J.J. Taylor ran for two TDs each and the Patriots won for the first time at home this season.

The 54 points are the most allowed by the Jets since losing 55-21 at New England on Oct. 29, 1978. It is the fourth-most points ever allowed by New York.

The Patriots earned their 12th straight victory and sixth consecutive season sweep over the Jets, who played most of the game without rookie quarterback Zach Wilson after the second overall draft pick left in the second quarter with a knee injury.

Wilson was hit by Patriots linebacker Matt Judon, who fell on the back of Wilson's legs after he released a pass. Wilson did not return and was replaced by Mike White — who hadn't previously taken an NFL regular-season snap.

Falcons 30, Dolphins 28

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Matt Ryan passed for 336 yards, nearly half of them going to rookie tight end Kyle Pitts, and Younghoe Koo made a 36-yard field goal as time expired.

Pitts had seven catches for 163 yards, the last 28 of those on a sideline route with just under 2:00 left to get the Falcons into field goal range. Koo's third field goal of the game saved Atlanta after the Falcons wasted a 13-point fourth-quarter lead.

Calvin Ridley and Russell Gage caught touchdown passes for the Falcons (3-3). Ryan completed 25 of 40 passes.

Tua Tagovailoa threw for 291 yards and a career-high four touchdowns, the last of them going to Mack Hollins with 2:27 left for Miami, which has dropped six straight. Tagovailoa completed 32 of 40 passes and had two interceptions—both of which led to Atlanta scores.

Giants 25, Panthers 3

In East Rutherford, N.J., Daniel Jones threw a 5-yard touchdown pass and made a spectacular one-handed 16-yard catch on the game's only meaningful touchdown drive.

Jones' touchdown pass went to Dante Pettis and survived a very long replay review in helping the Giants (2-5) hand Carolina (3-4) its fourth straight loss with star running back Christian McCaffrey sidelined.

Pettis coincidently threw the slightly overthrown pass on the flea flicker which Jones caught with the finger tips of his throwing hand. Jones finished 23 of 33 for 203 yards and had six carries for 30 yards.

Graham Gano kicked field goals of 49, 53 and 44 yards against his former team as the Giants struggled to score touchdowns with wide receivers Kenny Golladay (knee), Kadarius Toney (ankle) and Sterling Shepard (hamstring) and running back Saquon Barkley (ankle) all inactive. Devontae Booker added a 19-yard TD run with under five minutes to play.

Colts 30, 49ers 18

In Santa Clara, Calif., Carson Wentz threw TD passes to Mo Alie-Cox and Michael Pittman Jr. and ran for another score to lead Indianapolis to a rain-soaked victory over San Francisco.

The Colts (3-4) overcame the wet conditions and an early nine-point deficit to win for the third time in four games following an 0-3 start to the season.

The 49ers (2-4) dropped their fourth straight game and remained winless at home for more than a year since beating the Rams last Oct. 18, 2020, as the return of starting quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo failed to provide any spark. Garoppolo threw for 181 yards, lost a fumble, threw two interceptions and struggled to push the ball downfield in his first game back after missing one game with a calf injury.

Braves vs Astros: A World Series 6 decades in the making

HOUSTON (AP)—Freddie Freeman swinging onto baseball's biggest stage for the first time, Jose Altuve & Co. back for more. Luis Garcia, Framber Valdez and a fresh set of Houston arms facing Ozzie Albies, Austin Riley and these eager, young Atlanta bats.

And the endless quest for Mr. Dusty Baker.

Braves-Astros, a lot to savor in this World Series—even a family faceoff. Atlanta manager Brian Snitker's son, Troy, is a Houston hitting coach.

"It's like the Snitkers are going to have a World Series trophy in their house here," dad said Saturday night. "I don't know who is going to own it, but we're going to have one. So that's a pretty cool thing, too."

Atlanta Braves' Eddie Rosario holds the MVP trophy as he celebrates with Guillermo Heredia after winning Game 6 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Atlanta. T

A matchup six decades in the making, pairing former National League rivals who've played more than 700 times, including five postseason series. Think of The Hammer and The Toy Cannon teeing up home run derby at the Astrodome, or Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz vs. Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio on a June evening on TBS.

Because of scheduling and COVID-19, the Astros and Braves haven't seen each other since 2017. They'll now meet for Game 1 on Tuesday night at Minute Maid Park, with Valdez starting against Charlie Morton, a former Houston ace.

The Astros opened as a 3-2 favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

But before we begin, let's just say it: There are many baseball fans who might not be thrilled to see either team here in late October.

Altuve and Astros teammates Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman and Yuli Gurriel will forever wear the label of cheaters after being part of a team that devised an illegal, sign-stealing scheme on its way to the 2017 championship.

At home, they're cheered. At every other ballpark, they're heckled—and worse—as the game's worst villains.

"Ever since the news came out, the bad news that we've had to deal with about what happened in 2017, I think we've all wanted to prove what kind of class of players that we are and team that we are," AL Championship Series MVP Yordan Alvarez said.

"I wasn't here with the team in 2017, but I've gotten booed just as equal as anybody else. So I think we all have the same mentality that we really want to win a World Series to demonstrate that we are just a great team," he said.

When the scene shifts to Atlanta next Friday, Houston will figure out how to keep Alvarez's bat in the lineup as the DH or no DH debate is revived in the World Series.

The Astros are in the Fall Classic for the third time in five years and got there minus ace Justin Verlander, who missed the season while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

The Braves overcame a season-ending knee injury to dynamic star Ronald Acuña Jr. in July and surged after being stuck at 52-55 in early August. Boosted by NL Championship Series MVP Eddie Rosario, Atlanta is making its first appearance in the World Series since 1999.

Yet while the roster and stadium have changed, the sights and sounds in Atlanta still remain. Throughout the NLCS, fans at Truist Park emphatically chopped and chanted during big moments for the Braves.

In an era of social reckoning that saw the Cleveland Indians change their name to the Guardians and Washington's NFL team get rid of a name considered racist, the scene in Atlanta is sure to draw increased attention.

On the field—and the bench—a lot of eyes will be on Baker.

He won the World Series as a player with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1981 and has taken five teams to the playoffs as a manager but never won the crown.

Baker took this job in 2020 in the wake of Houston's cheating scandal—"there's a few things I still hadn't accomplished"—and at 72, with a lifetime of credentials, gets another chance.

"Last year I felt like a substitute teacher, really. I was an outsider," Baker said. "But this year, they made me feel like I was one of them and they were definitely always one of me. That's what it's all about. Everybody talks teamwork, they talk about a team, but it's a feeling that you get for each other."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	2	1	.667	—
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	—
Toronto	1	2	.333	1
Brooklyn	1	2	.333	1
Boston	1	2	.333	1

Southeast Division

Charlotte	3	0	1.000	—
Washington	2	0	1.000	½
Miami	1	1	.500	1½
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1½
Orlando	1	2	.333	2

Central Division

Chicago	3	0	1.000	—
Milwaukee	2	1	.667	1
Cleveland	1	2	.333	2
Indiana	1	2	.333	2
Detroit	0	2	.000	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	2	1	.667	—
Dallas	1	1	.500	½
Houston	1	2	.333	1
San Antonio	1	2	.333	1
New Orleans	0	3	.000	2

Northwest Division

Utah	2	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	—
Denver	2	0	1.000	—
Portland	1	1	.500	1
Oklahoma City	0	3	.000	2½

Pacific Division

Golden State	3	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333	2
Sacramento	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Clippers	0	2	.000	2½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	203	98
New England	3	4	0	.429	179	140
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0	.167	80	175
Miami	1	6	0	.143	127	207

South

Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	193	164
Indianapolis	3	4	0	.429	169	149
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	116	172
Houston	1	6	0	.143	97	203

North

Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	187	164
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	189	128
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	173	165
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	117	132

West

Las Vegas	5	2	0	.714	180	166
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667	148	150
Denver	3	4	0	.429	140	127
Kansas City	3	4	0	.429	188	203

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	5	1	0	.833	205	146
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	.286	139	180
Philadelphia	2	5	0	.286	159	185
Washington	2	5	0	.286	146	210

South

Tampa Bay	6	1	0	.857	233	147
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	127	91
Atlanta	3	3	0	.500	135	176
Carolina	3	4	0	.429	146	146

North

Green Bay	6	1	0	.857	168	146
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	147	137
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	101	162
Detroit	0	7	0	.000	128	200

West

Arizona	7	0	0	1.000	225	114
L.A. Rams	6	1	0	.857	207	146
San Francisco	2	4	0	.333	135	149
Seattle	2	4	0	.333	140	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROTARY

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3, 7, 12, and 14, accurate circle front in hole No. 6, and accurate circle back in hole No. 16.

To submit your entry form, call or email the following: Vicente "Ben" Babauta at 483-2563/vicente.babauta@gmail.com; Charles Cepeda at 483-6435/charlesvcepeda@gmail.com; Ivan Ilmov at 983-1040/ivanilmov13@gmail.com; and Enoch Lim at 483-7415/enochlim@hotmail.com.

Last year, cousins Jack and Ramon San Nicolas topped the 2020 Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic Tournament held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The duo scored a 4-under par 32 on the front nine and 2-over par 38 on the back and with their 0 handicap, they still wound up with a net score of 70, narrowly defeating the teams of Diego Benavente/Joji Taguchi and Freddie Cataluna/Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho. A total of 100 took part in last year's tournament.

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cios, M.J. De Belen, Antonio Atalig III, Jermaine Salas, Blake Mister, Simon Necesito, Tyce Mister, Logan Mister, Tyler Wilsey, and Bruce Berline. The five women that tried out were Toni Yamada, Chenny Lizama, Alyssa Pourmonir, Stacy Eno, and Savannah Delos Santos

Quan said the tryout was to essentially assess each athlete's individual skills as well as to see how they adapt to playing with weaker players vs. stronger players.

"Does their game and attitude change? Can they recognize what needs to be done to correct errors? How much do they rely on their partner? Some athletes play awesome when they're paired up with a strong player, but don't do well playing with weaker players. So we measure adaptability, attitude, leadership, conduct along with individual skills in a tournament like this," she said.

While it was a tournament, NMIVA didn't really keep scores as it was more of a tryout than your usual tournament. "Because it wasn't a traditional style tournament, the scores of the games themselves didn't matter because there was no progression. Everyone played the same number of games but with different partners every time."

The NMIVA president said she and other board members were pretty satisfied with how the first tryout for next year's Mini Games panned out.

"Overall, we are happy with the turn out and how the tournament went. We plan to host another tournament of this format on Nov. 6. We anticipate more men and women to show up since it will now be our second one. We are also doing this style of tournament again so that the people who didn't know about it or could not make the Nov. 23 tournament can still try out without being penalized. In a few weeks, we will host a different type of tournament where you come with your partner and play together throughout the whole tournament."

Any individuals interested in trying out for the beach volleyball national team for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, contact NMIVA at nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

SWIMMERS

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back some good results. We will continue to work hard and bring out our best performance on race day," he said.

Shoko Litulumar, for her part, admitted that her selection to Team CNMI hasn't totally soaked in yet.

"I have practiced hard to be chosen as a qualifier, and I am proud of myself to be chosen as one. But since I have been the one to get chosen, I need to train myself even harder than the rest, both physically and mentally. There are people in my team who wanted to get qualified as well but couldn't meet the qualifications, so on behalf of the people who couldn't qualify, I will do my best to show them why I was chosen," she said.

Litulumar also promised to give more than her 100% in the Abu Dhabi World Championships.

"I will surpass my limits, learn new techniques, and use them during practice to showcase them during the World Championships. I look forward to what this journey will bring," she added.

Litulumar's sister, Asaka, already is looking forward to become a faster swimmer before and after her experience in the World Championships.

"I am delighted to be selected as a representative for the Northern Mariana Islands. My goal is to become an even faster swimmer before the World Championships in December. I will focus on fixing my technique to better my form because my swimming form needs a little brush-up. I can achieve this goal by swimming harder while still being conscious of how I swim. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I will continue to work hard and do my very best!"

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura is confident that Suzuki, Tenorio, and the Litulumar sisters will make their Tsunami Saipan teammates proud in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships.

"I sincerely hope that they will be a good role model for the young swimmers who follow them. There are a lots of young swimmers in our team. The closest are Isaiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, and Maria Batallones those who have already reached the national representative level. I believe swimmers going to Abu Dhabi will act as good athletes for those who will follow on their footsteps in the near future," he said.

Aside from Suzuki, Tenorio, the Litulumar sister, and Kimura, also making up the CNMI team to the World Championships is Saipan Swim Club coach Richard Sikkel, who will go to Abu Dhabi as representative of the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation.

Lakers overcome Morant's 40-points, beat Grizzlies, 121-118

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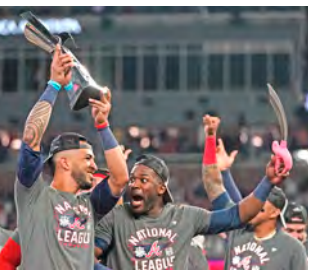
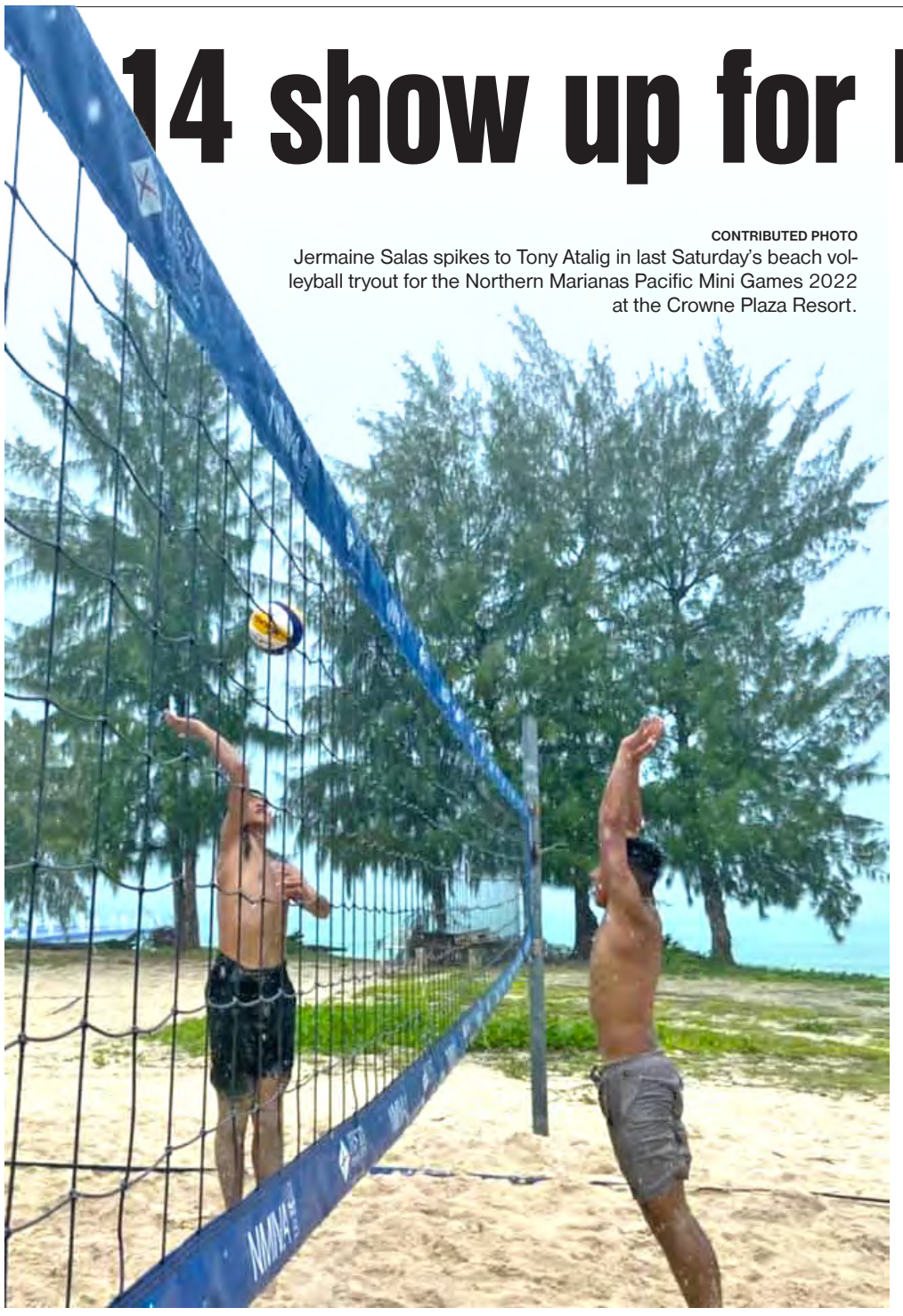


14 show up for Mini Games tryout



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jermaine Salas spikes to Tony Atalig in last Saturday's beach volleyball tryout for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Resort.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A total of 14 players took part in the beach volleyball tryout for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 held last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan).

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan said a total of nine men and five women aspirants to the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team showed up for the tryouts, which was held from 8:30am to 12pm.

"It was an individual's tournament so every athlete got a chance to play with every athlete in at least one game…For the men, it was one set to 15 points. For the women, it was one set to 21 points, no cap. We had five women show up to try out and about nine men. So all in all, the men had 10 rounds of two matches going and the women had seven rounds of one match going," she said.

Quan said they made the men's games shorter to acommodate more games and for the tournament to not drag on. "It's back-to-back, constant games and since it's not a traditional tournament, we wanted to make sure we were seeing their best play," she added.

The nine men that took part in last Saturday's tryout were Dylan Mister, Damian Pala-

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Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic on Nov. 13

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be bringing back its popular Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic Tournament on Nov. 13 at the Coral Ocean Resort.

Instead of the two-person scramble, Rotary Club will be using medal play as the format for the 2021 edition of the golf fundraiser.

Tournament coordinator Das Krishnan said they are expecting a full slate of 144 players to take part in the Rotary Goodwill Golf Tournament.

Like previous years, there will be six flights—Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Ladies Flight, Senior Flight, and Senior 55-and-above Flight. Prizes across all flights is $500 for first place, $300 for second place, $200 for third place, and $100 for fourth place.

The Rotary Goodwill Golf Tournament will have a 6am showtime and a 7am shotgun start. Early registration is $120 with late registration setting participants back $140. There is also a $25 option play for closest to the pin in holes No.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The picturesque Coral Ocean Resort will host the Rotary Goodwill Golf Classic Tournament on Nov. 13.

Swimmers ecstatic with World Champs selection

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Given how all manner of sports was in a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all four swimmers selected to represent the CNMI in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships are more than excited to travel to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this December.

Jinnosuke Suzuki promised that he will work doubly hard the next couple of months to achieve his goal in the World Championships.

"I am glad that I was selected to represent the CNMI. My goal for this competition is to get under a 55 for the 100m free and cut 2 minutes for the 200m free. I know that the four of us selected to swim in Abu Dhabi will work hard everyday and I believe that the results will show it," he said.

Juhn Tenorio seconded Suzuki's comments, adding that not only will they meet their goals, but will more likely surpass them at the World Championships.

"I am very excited to go with this team and cannot wait to show the hard work done behind the scenes. My target for this competition is to go under 1 minute in my 100m backstroke. We have two more months to work on our weaknesses and technical skills. I am confident that my team and I will surpass our expectations and bring

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI swimmers bound for the15th FINA World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates pose for a group photo with Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, center. From left, Jinnosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio, Kimura, Shoko Litulumar, and Asaka Litulumar.